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FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ANACONDA NEVADA MOLY PROJECT



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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

ANACONDA NEVADA MOLY PROJECT

August 1980

Lead Agency

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Bureau of Land Management
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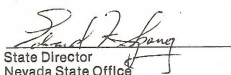
Location of Action

State of Nevada
Counties of Lander and Nye

ABSTRACT

This Final Environmental Impact Statement is in response to a right-of-way application for a 230 kv transmission line submitted to the Bureau of Land Management by Sierra Pacific Power Company. The proposed transmission line would cross public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District, and would supply electric power to the site of the proposed Anaconda Nevada Moly Project. This project would consist of an open pit mine and flotation mill plant designed for the production of molybdenum concentrate. This document addresses both the mine/mill site and the proposed transmission line corridor; however, the right-of-way application is the only action over which the BLM has permitting authority.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and made available to the public on April 18, 1980.


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SUMMARY

PROJECT SUMMARY

The proposed Nevada Moly Project would be constructed near Tonopah, Nevada, and would include an open pit molybdenum mine and mill, and a 230 kilovolt (kv) electric transmission line. The mine and mill would be located on a combination of Anaconda Copper Company's (ACC) privately owned land and public land on which the company has located mining claims under the general mining laws. The proposed transmission line would be located on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Battle Mountain District, and would be constructed by Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPCo). The proposed transmission line would run along the east side of the Big Smoky Valley from an existing transmission line near Austin, Nevada, to ACC's property located approximately 18 miles north of Tonopah, Nevada.

Under the plan of operation for the project, the proposed open pit molybdenum mine and flotation mill would require removal from the pit of 80,000 metric tons of waste and 20,000 metric tons of ore per day. The ore would be crushed, ground, and subjected to a flotation recovery process from which the molybdenum concentrate produced would be dried and placed in drums for shipment to market. Mine waste would be stored near the pit; tailings from the mill would be placed in a pond located on the site. Water for the process would be pumped from wells and also reclaimed from the tailings pond. The project would require a total of 400 employees when operational. Electric power requirements for the mine and mill are estimated to be 30 megawatts.

The right-of-way application from SPPCo for the construction of the transmission line is the only action over which the BLM has any permitting authority. The BLM has no authority over any aspect of the construction or operation of the molybdenum operation. However, it was concluded that the definition of the Proposed Action should also include the mining operation because the mining operation and transmission line are closely related and connected actions and because it was an-

ticipated that cumulative impacts for the right-of-way and mining project would be significant.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) SCOPING PROCESS

Following the decision to prepare an EIS, the BLM initiated a "scoping process" to determine the scope and significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the EIS. The final scoping document used in the process identified the significant and non-significant issues determined by BLM (Table 1).

Scoping information for the EIS was gathered in the course of meetings, briefings, and direct contact with interested groups, agencies, and individuals. During the scoping process, 31 public inquiries were received. Several were specific and useful concerning the proposals while others were requests for additional information.

The public identified several items as significant issues (Table 2). Some issues were in addition to those previously identified in the draft scoping document. Each issue was addressed in the final scoping document and the EIS process included consideration of all issues. It was determined that if the issues were related to significant impacts of the Proposed Action or alternatives, they would be documented in the EIS.

The major issues identified in the scoping process and their eventual resolution in the EIS process were:

1. *Electrical Power for Kingston Canyon Residents.* One issue which was raised by several people concerned the issue of tapping the proposed transmission line for the purpose of supplying local power. It was concluded that this issue did not relate to the primary proposal to an extent necessary to be considered as an alternative. A contractual agreement between SPPCo and the residents of the Kingston Canyon region to tap the proposed 230 kv transmission line and supply electrical power to local residents had not occurred by the end of the scoping process. Therefore, the cumulative impacts of providing electric service to the Kingston Canyon region were not considered in the EIS.

TABLE 1
SIGNIFICANT ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN BLM SCOPING DOCUMENT

	<i>Significant Issues^a</i>	
Cultural Resources	Social Impacts	Solid Waste Disposal
Air Quality	Economics	Wildlife
Threatened/Endangered	Water Use	Transportation
Plants & Animals	Aquifer Contamination	Noise
Visual Resources	Mine Waste Disposal	Agriculture
Wilderness		
	<i>Non-Significant Issues</i>	
	Geological Hazards	
	Livestock Grazing	
	Wild Horses and Burros	
	Woodland Products	

^aSome issues were identified as significant because the impacts were unknown.

TABLE 2
ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING EIS SCOPING PROCESS

- Ft. Churchill transmission line alternate routing
- Use of existing multiple utility corridors (Highway 376) for transmission line
- Potential alternate sources of power
- Electrical power supply to residents of Kingston Canyon
- Use of wooden poles for transmission line construction
- Impact of Proposed Action and alternatives on the Arc Dome Wilderness area
- Impact of Proposed Action and alternatives on visual resources
- Impact of Proposed Action and alternatives on visual resources
- Identification of planned mining operations which might tap a potential transmission line through the Big Smoky Valley
- Identification of three sage grouse strutting grounds on the project area
- Plants on the proposed threatened and endangered list that are found in the Big Smoky Valley
- Cultural and historic resources potentially located in the project area

A public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was concerned with possible conflicts between the ACC Nevada Moly Project and a preliminary proposal to construct electric distribution lines to supply power to residents of Kingston Canyon. Analysis presented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) as a response to the public comment indicated that the two proposals would not be in conflict.

2. *Ft. Churchill Routing For Transmission Line.* During the scoping process it was suggested that an alternative routing be considered from the Ft. Churchill generating station near Yerington, south to Walker Lake, then to the Millers substation, and north to the Anaconda property. This alternative was analyzed in the preliminary stages of the EIS process to determine if it could be considered as a reasonable alternative as defined under section 1502.14(a) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. An environmental analysis concluded that the Ft. Churchill alternative was not a reasonable alternative and should not be analyzed in detail in the EIS.

The Ft. Churchill route was again suggested in a public comment on the DEIS. The environmental analysis was reconsidered during preparation of the FEIS and the same conclusion was reached. Based on its increased length, the comparatively rugged terrain to be crossed, and increased construction costs, the route was not considered a reasonable alternative.

3. *Use of Existing Multiple Utility Corridors.* One issue identified in the scoping process was that a wilderness inventory area at the north end of the Big Smoky Valley could be protected if the transmission line would follow the route of existing power lines on the west side of the Big Smoky Valley along Highway 376. It was also felt that this would be preferable from a construction and maintenance standpoint. An accelerated wilderness inventory concluded that the area in question does not have wilderness character. However, the West Smoky Valley Corridor was included as Alternative 1 in the EIS and analyzed in detail. In the DEIS, it was concluded that the West Smoky Valley alternative corridor would have greater impacts to the visual and cultural resources of the Big Smoky Valley than the proposed transmission line (refer to Chapter 3 in the

DEIS for additional discussion). In addition, the West Smoky Valley alternative corridor would present several potential conflicts with private land users.

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Following the scoping process, the DEIS was prepared for the Anaconda Nevada Moly Project. The DEIS was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and noted in the April 18, 1980 *Federal Register*. Copies of the DEIS were distributed for public review and comment.

The DEIS analyzed five alternatives in detail: the Proposed Action; the West Smoky Valley alternative transmission line corridor; alternative transmission line tower structures; an alternative crushing and grinding circuit for the mine/mill complex; and the No Action alternative which would consist of development of the mine/mill complex with on-site diesel generators. Chapter 1 in the DEIS includes detailed descriptions of the alternatives.

Comparison of Impacts and Issues for Alternatives

Analyses of the environmental impacts of the five alternatives are documented in Chapter 3 of the DEIS, with minor clarification and additions in Chapter 3 of the FEIS. A summary comparison table is included as Table 1-1 in the FEIS. However, several major issues and impacts associated with the Proposed Action and alternatives, and the major differences between the alternatives, are summarized below:

Proposed Action

Both adverse and beneficial impacts would be associated with the Proposed Action. The transmission line component would produce localized effects on soils, vegetation, wildlife, and visual resources which are not considered significant. Construction and operation of the mine/mill complex would result in significant impacts which fall into two general categories, socioeconomic issues and issues related to revegetation success:

1. *Socioeconomic Issues.* The construction of the ACC mine/mill complex would have significant direct and indirect beneficial and

adverse impacts to Tonopah and Nye County. The project would beneficially affect the regional economy of Nye County and the city of Tonopah by providing significant employment opportunities for existing and new residents and by generating significant tax and individual revenues. Project-related employment would peak at approximately 1,000 employees and level to 400. The project would generate approximately \$1.7 million annually in tax revenues for the city of Tonopah. The construction payroll would exceed \$26 million and the annual operating payroll would amount to \$8 million.

Associated with the beneficial impacts, there would be several significant adverse socioeconomic impacts. Most of the adverse impacts are directly or indirectly associated with increases in population and services required to support the influx of project-related personnel. The impacts are addressed in Chapter 3 of the DEIS but generally consist of the following:

- *Employment and Income* - Project abandonment in 2001 would result in elimination of approximately 1,000 jobs (both at the mine/mill and in the service sector) and the labor force would migrate from the Tonopah area.
- *Public Financial Resources* - There would be a short-term adverse impact resulting from the time lag between influx of population and the generation of new revenue to support the associated increase in public expenditure needed as a result of the project.
- *Attitudes and Lifestyles* - Some existing residents would be adversely affected because a disruption of lifestyle would occur due to influx of new residents with different values, mores, and attitudes.
- *Housing* - The total housing demand including the Proposed Action would be around 1,069 dwelling units by the end of 1981. Estimated supplies during the same period would provide approximately 618 units; including 428 units or mobile home pads to be built by Anaconda. Thus, shortages of up to 451 units would exist in 1981. Given the historically limited ability of the local housing market to expand the housing stock, and the already tight housing market, the shortages of housing would be an

unavoidable adverse impact which could limit the expansion of the work force, delaying the construction of the project.

- *Schools* - Schools would be adversely impacted during the first two to three years of the project, until new permanent facilities could be built. Current physical capacity would be exceeded by over 85 percent during the 1980-81 school year. An additional 22 classrooms and teachers would be required. The cost of the additional facilities and staff would be an unavoidable adverse impact. The extremely rapid enrollment growth would be offset to some extent by the school district's ability to respond fairly rapidly to increases in operating expenses; however, the lag associated with property tax revenue and the time required for capital facilities construction would result in serious short-term problems.
- *Health Services* - Health services would be directly affected by an increased need for staff. Trained medical personnel are difficult to attract to Tonopah. Therefore, any unfilled positions would indirectly translate into a reduced provision of health care services.
- *Water Supply, Wastewater Treatment, Solid Waste* - The project-related growth would cause unavoidable adverse impacts to the town of Tonopah's water supply system, wastewater treatment facilities, and solid waste disposal facility. Each of these facilities would require expansion of its capacity at some time during the project life to accommodate the project-related growth. The most significant impact involves the wastewater treatment system which must be improved to meet future growth needs without the Proposed Action. Failure to provide substantial increases in capacity could either delay the project schedule or require provision of treatment facilities for the residential development area planned by Anaconda.
- *Social Service Programs* - Some minor, short-term adverse impacts to social service programs, e.g., increased caseloads and additional resource staff requirements, would be anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action. The impacts would be greatest during the construction period.

2. *Revegetation Success at Mine/Mill Complex.* Since there are uncertainties regarding eventual reclamation plans, particularly with regard to the characteristics of tailings and waste disposal areas to be revegetated, a worst-case analysis was necessary. Assuming that these areas would not provide suitable plant growth media, it was concluded that insufficient soil material would be available for use in revegetation. Poor water-holding capacity and high erodibility would limit revegetation potential which leads to the conclusion that revegetation failure could occur. If revegetation failure occurred, the lack of vegetation on significant topographic alterations, such as waste disposal areas and the tailings dam and pond, would significantly affect the long-term visual resources of the project area.

Alternative 1, West Smoky Valley Alternative

Alternative 1 would present all of the significant issues associated with the mine/mill complex which were discussed for the Proposed Action. In addition, location of the transmission line as proposed for this alternative would result in significant impacts which were not associated with the Proposed Action. A significant number of cultural and historical sites would be adversely affected by transmission line construction. The transmission line would violate BLM Class III Visual Resource Management Standards in several areas, and on the west side and portions of the east side of Highway 376, would adversely affect views of the highly scenic (Class II) Toiyabe Mountains west of the highway. Additionally, land use conflicts with private landowners would result from construction of the West Smoky Valley Alternative.

Alternative 2, Alternative Tower Structures

Five alternative tower structures were analyzed for construction of the transmission line. Impacts were analyzed for both the proposed and West Smoky Valley Alternative corridors. Use of the different structures would not affect impacts for most environmental components, but would change impacts to visual resources. One of the alternative structures would result in impacts identical to the proposed structures and one alternative structure would result in greater visual contrasts than the proposed. The remaining three structures would result in reduced impacts, in comparison to the proposed structures, because their colors would be in

greater harmony with the natural tans and grays of the existing landscape.

Alternative 3, Alternative Crushing/Grinding Circuit for Mine/Mill Complex

This alternative would result in the same significant impacts and issues as described for the Proposed Action. Primary differences between this alternative and the Proposed Action are in air quality impacts and in the magnitude of previously discussed impacts related to increased population. This alternative would result in a significant increase of total suspended particulates (TSP) over the Proposed Action and annual average and maximum TSP concentrations would be significantly higher; these would still not exceed Federal or state air quality standards. Alternative 3 would require an additional 18 employees which would increase the population projections by 101. The increases in population would also create an additional housing demand for 33 dwelling units.

Alternative 4, No Action

This alternative assumes that construction of the mine/mill would be completed without the transmission line and that Anaconda would develop on-site diesel generators for the power source. Therefore, all impacts associated with the Proposed Action would be the same except that impacts identified for the transmission line would be eliminated. The generators would result in an increase in particulate emissions over the Proposed Action, but the resulting TSP concentration would still be below state and Federal air quality standards. There would be pollutant emissions of carbon monoxide (CO), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂), but the concentrations would not exceed any Federal or state standards. This alternative would require an additional 6,570,000 gallons of diesel fuel annually.

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The official public review period for the DEIS ended June 2, 1980, but review comments received through June 12, 1980, were honored. Two public hearings were held and ten letters of comment were received. Following the public review period for the DEIS, all public comments were carefully reviewed to determine the appropriate means of response.

This review indicated need for only minor changes in the DEIS. An abbreviated FEIS was developed which: (1) clarifies or adds new information to the DEIS; (2) provides responses to public comments on the DEIS; and (3) identifies the agency's preferred alternative. This approach is consistent with the NEPA regulations (sections 1500.4 and 1503.4) developed by the Council on Environmental Quality which require that an EIS emphasize material which is useful to decisionmakers and the public, and which permits use of an abbreviated FEIS.

Agency's Preferred Alternative

BLM's preferred alternative is the Proposed Action. This alternative involves construction and operation of the mine/mill complex as described in the DEIS and location of the transmission line on the east side of the Big Smoky Valley. Based on the analysis of the environmental impacts presented in Chapter 3 of the DEIS (summarized in Table 1-1 of the FEIS), the Proposed Action is the preferred alternative because it would result in fewer significant environmental impacts than other reasonable alternatives. In comparison with the other four alternatives analyzed, the Proposed Action: (1) would result in lesser im-

pacts to visual resources in the Big Smoky Valley; (2) would have lower potential for significant impacts to cultural resources; (3) would result in fewer emissions of air pollutants and lower TSP, CO, NO_x, and SO₂ concentrations; and (4) would result in slightly lower population increases and associated population-related impacts.

RECORD OF DECISION

Although the BLM has identified its preferred alternative relative to the Anaconda Nevada Moly Project, a final decision will not be made until a minimum of 30 days after the EPA has published, in the *Federal Register*, the Notice of Availability for the FEIS. The decision will be based on environmental information in the DEIS, FEIS, and supporting technical reports. Economic and technical data may also be considered.

After the decision, a Record of Decision will be prepared, according to section 1505.2 of the NEPA regulations. The record of decision will state the decision, identify all alternatives considered, identify the environmentally preferred alternative, and discuss the rationale for the choice among alternatives.

PREFACE

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Anaconda Nevada Moly Project was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and noted in the April 18, 1980 *Federal Register*. The official public review period ended June 2, 1980, but comments received by June 12, 1980, were honored. Two public hearings were held and ten letters of comment were received.

Following the public review period for the DEIS, all public comments were carefully reviewed to determine the appropriate means of response. This review indicated need for only minor changes in the DEIS. A decision was made that the DEIS would not be completely rewritten. Instead, an abbreviated Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was developed which provides responses to the public comments and corrects or clarifies information in the DEIS. This approach is consistent with section 1500.4 of the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act regulations, which requires that an EIS emphasize material which is useful to decisionmakers and the public, and with section 1503.4, which permits use of an abbreviated FEIS.

The FEIS: (1) provides minor clarification or additions to the DEIS which are needed as a result of project design changes, public review comments, or new information which became available after the DEIS was completed; (2) updates the discussion of coordination and consultation efforts completed during the EIS process; and (3) provides responses to public review comments on the DEIS. Thus, with the exceptions noted in the FEIS, the discussions and findings presented in the DEIS continue to represent the findings of the Bureau of Land Management in the environmental analysis.

The FEIS follows the same chapter organization as the DEIS; for example, minor additions to the description of the Proposed Action appear in Chapter 1, while resulting changes in the environmental impact analysis appear in Chapter 3. Several chapters in the DEIS (4, 6, 7, and 8) did not require changes so corresponding chapters do not appear in the FEIS.

Because the FEIS does not reproduce the DEIS in its entirety and relies heavily on the DEIS for most discussions, reviewers will need both documents. Individuals who have not received a DEIS should contact the BLM Nevada State Office to obtain a copy. The appropriate contact and address is listed on the title page of the FEIS.

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CHAPTER 1

ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) documents changes in the various alternatives which have occurred since the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was prepared. These changes consist of: (1) a modification of Anaconda Copper Company's (ACC) proposed housing plan; (2) addition of several new Standard Operating Procedures for the mine/mill complex; (3) addition of several new mitigation measures for the 230 kv transmission line; (4) addition of a fifth optional transmission tower structure to Alternative 2; (5) update of the comparison of impacts for the several alternatives; and (6) statement of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) preferred alternative.

MODIFICATIONS OF PROPOSED ACTION

Anaconda Housing Plan

Since publication of the DEIS, ACC has modified its proposed project design to include construction of a temporary campground facility at the mine/mill site to accommodate some of the construction-related needs for housing. The campground will have a capacity of 302 units. Following the completion of construction, the facility will be leased to and operated by Kampergrounds of America, Inc. Water and wastewater facilities will be provided on-site, utilizing wells at the mill site and a self-contained package treatment plant. Electrical power will be supplied from an existing powerline in the area, while propane will be available from either the campground operator or the two gas companies in Tonopah. The campground will be temporary, being operated only through the end of the construction period (late 1981). At that time it will be closed, all improvements removed, and the land reclaimed.

Also, at the time of publication of the DEIS, ACC had not finalized plans for providing recreational resources as part of its Housing Plan. These plans have since been developed. ACC would establish areas within the various subdivisions to be used solely for recreational purposes. Within these areas, ACC would construct the following recreational facilities in accordance with plans for which detailed construction schedules are being developed.

1. Swimming pool
2. Two lighted tennis courts
3. A prepared area to be used for field sports
4. A bike and jogging path

All of these facilities would be completed on or before December 31, 1981. ACC would convey to the county certain portions of land within the proposed housing development for open space purposes to be left in their natural state and to be used and enjoyed by the general public. The only planned improvements for open space areas would be bike and jogging paths to be built by ACC and completed by December 31, 1981.

In addition, ACC would support local sports activities for example, men's and women's softball leagues.

ACC's subdivision at present is zoned partially for business and it is anticipated that other developers would build recreational facilities such as bowling alleys, theaters, or health clubs.

Additional Standard Operating Procedures at the Mine/Mill Complex

Pages 1-14 through 1-16 of the DEIS list several Standard Operating Procedures to be

implemented by ACC in developing the mine/mill complex. Since publication of the DEIS, ACC has committed to three additional procedures, in response to concerns expressed by reviewers:

- ACC would prohibit firearms on its property at the mine/mill site, including the temporary trailer park.
- ACC would develop a wildlife education program for use as part of its employee orientation program. The program would emphasize wildlife laws and their importance and explain why harassment or indiscriminate shooting (plinking) of wildlife is harmful to wildlife populations. The program would be developed by Anaconda in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and would become an integral part of new employee orientation.
- In order to help mitigate potential indirect impacts to the Blue Jack and Liberty Mines, ACC would develop a cultural resources education program as part of its employee orientation program. The program would inform employees of the significance of the sites and would urge employees not to disturb the integrity of these cultural resources.

Additional Mitigation Measures for the 230 kv Transmission Line

Pages 1-19 through 1-21 in the DEIS list several mitigation measures which would be implemented by Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPCo) in constructing the 230 kv transmission line. Three additional measures have been committed to by SPPCo:

- SPPCo would prohibit firearms in construction vehicles and in all areas utilized for staging, access, or construction for the 230 kv transmission line.
- SPPCo would develop a wildlife education packet for contractors working on the 230 kv transmission line. The packet would explain state and Federal wildlife laws and would prohibit shooting or harassment of wildlife by construction crews.

- During March 1980 surveys for sage grouse in the vicinity of the transmission line, a sage grouse strutting ground was found to be located almost directly on the route of the proposed transmission line. The strutting ground would have been disturbed by construction activities, so a line relocation was agreed to by SPPCo, BLM and NDOW representatives. The alternate routing, shown on Map 1-1 would be used to prevent adverse impacts to the strutting ground.

MODIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVE 3

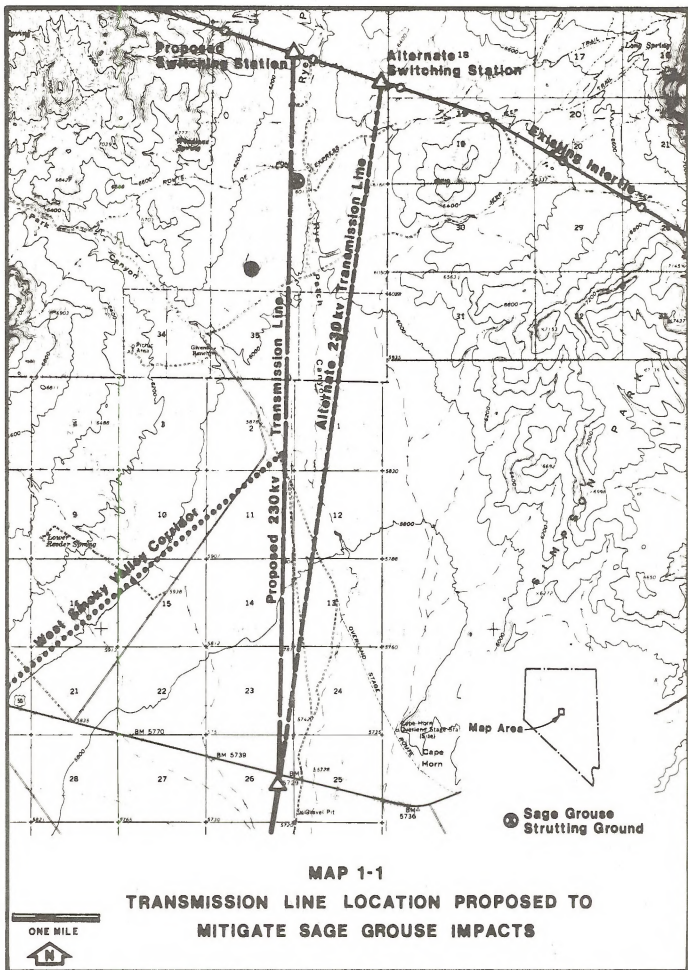
Alternative 2 in the DEIS included use of one of four optional transmission line structures in the event that the proposed wood H-frame structures could not be obtained. Option B within the alternative assumed use of aluminum guyed delta and 4-legged free standing tangent structures (page 1-23 in DEIS). In the discussion of impacts of the alternative tower structures (pages 3-47 and 3-48 in DEIS), it was assumed that the aluminum structures would have a non-specular or dulled surface. However, the structures could have either a dull or shiny (specular) surface, so it is necessary to supplement the analysis with a fifth option (E) which would be the aluminum structures with shiny surfaces.

SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS

Table 1-10 in the DEIS summarized the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives. Portions of that table required revision for the FEIS, so the table is reproduced here as Table 1-1. As stated in the DEIS, Chapter 3 of the DEIS, supplemented by Chapter 3 of the FEIS, provides details of the impact analysis.

BLM PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative is the Proposed Action. This alternative involves construction and operation of the mine/mill as described in Chapter 1 of the DEIS and location of the transmission line on the east side of the Big Smoky Valley.



MAP 1-1
TRANSMISSION LINE LOCATION PROPOSED TO
MITIGATE SAGE GROUSE IMPACTS

The Proposed Action is the preferred alternative because it would result in fewer significant environmental impacts than the other reasonable alternatives. In comparison with the other four alternatives analyzed, the Proposed Action: (1) would have lower potential for significant impacts to visual resources; (2) would have lower potential for significant impacts to cultural resources; (3) would result in fewer emissions of air pollutants and lower TSP, CO, NO_x, and SO₂ concentrations; and (4) would result in slightly lower population increases and associated population-related impacts.

Although the BLM has identified its preferred alternative relative to the Anaconda Nevada Moly Project, a final decision will not be made until a minimum of 30 days after filing of the FEIS. At that time the BLM District Manager, Battle Mountain District, will prepare a formal record of decision. According to section 1505.2 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, the record of decision will state the decision; identify all alternatives considered; specify the environmentally preferred alternative; and discuss the rationale for the choice among alternatives.

TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS FOR ALL ALTERNATIVES¹

Proposed Action	West Smoky Alternative	No Action	Alternative Designs	Alternative Crushing/Grinding Circuit
AIR QUALITY				
1,600.5 tons/year of particulate (TSP) emissions. Annual TSP concentration would be 1.4 µg/m ³ . Emissions would not violate any air quality standards.	Same as Proposed Action	1,656.1 tons per year of particulate (TSP) emissions. Annual TSP concentrations would be 1.5 µg/m ³ . Emissions for carbon monoxide (CO) would be 446.5 tons/yr; oxides of nitrogen (NO _x) would be 3,204.4 tons/yr; and sulfur dioxide (SO ₂) would be 519 tons/yr TSP. Emissions would not violate any air quality standards.	Same as Proposed Action	1,655.4 tons/yr of particulates (TSP) emissions. Annual average TSP concentrations would be 5.9 µg/m ³ . Emissions would not violate any air quality standards
GEOLOGICAL SETTING & TOPOGRAPHY				
Operation of the mine/mill complex would directly impact the existing topography; this alteration at the mine/mill site would be considered significant.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
SOILS				
Based on a worst-case analysis, insufficient soil material would be available for revegetation and revegetation would fail. The direct impact of soil burial would indirectly affect visual resources at the mine/mill site.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action

TABLE 1-1 *Continued*SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS FOR ALL ALTERNATIVES¹

Proposed Action	West Smoky Alternative	No Action	Alternative Designs	Alternative Crushing/Grinding Circuit
WATER RESOURCES				
Seepage from tailings pond would be approximately 400-590 acre-feet per year but would not affect groundwater quality. Project would require 4,840 acre-feet per year which represents 34% of natural groundwater flow beneath mine/mill site. No significant impact to water quality or existing water uses would occur.	Same as Proposed Action but transmission line would cross seven perennial streams versus one for the proposed corridor. However, no significant adverse impacts would occur.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
VEGETATION²				
Permanent loss of vegetation on 2,521 acres at mine/mill complex (assuming revegetation would fail) and 87 acres of vegetation on transmission line. This loss is considered insignificant. To avoid loss of populations of two candidate threatened and endangered plants, individual plants were removed from the mine/mill site and donated to three regional botanic gardens. Although these plants were saved from destruction, removal from native habitat is considered a significant adverse impact.	Same as Proposed Action except 92 acres of vegetation would be permanently lost with construction of transmission line.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action or West Smoky Valley Alternative (Alternative designs could be implemented on either transmission line corridor).	Same as Proposed Action

TABLE 1-1 *Continued*SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS FOR ALL ALTERNATIVES¹

Proposed Action	West Smoky Alternative	No Action	Alternative Designs	Alternative Crushing/Grinding Circuit
WILDLIFE²				
Permanent and temporary losses of wildlife habitat would occur but are considered insignificant due to widespread occurrence of similar habitat in the region. Insignificant direct losses of several wildlife species would occur. The Transmission line would disturb a small, but unquantified area of mule deer winter range. Loss of forage and disturbance of animals would not result in significant impacts.	Same as Proposed Action except corridor would disturb 22 acres of mule deer winter range. The loss of forage and disturbance of animals would not result in significant impacts.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action or Smoky Valley Alternative (Alternative designs could be implemented on either transmission line corridor).	Same as Proposed Action
CULTURAL RESOURCES				
Increased population would indirectly affect the nearby Liberty and Blue Jack Mines. Ten prehistoric and one historic site could be directly affected by project. If affected, the sites would be salvaged and impacts to cultural resources would be considered insignificant. Historical trails or stage roads of high historic value could be impacted by the project and thus would represent a significant adverse impact.	Cultural resource impacts along the transmission line corridor could result from this alternative. Three major prehistoric areas and 19 smaller areas are within the corridor and would be impacted. However, these sites would be salvaged and impacts to prehistoric resources would be considered insignificant. Two historic features, the Minium Stage Station and Belmont-Austin Stage Coach Road would be adversely affected by the project.	Increased population would indirectly affect the nearby Liberty and Blue Jack Mine.	Same as Proposed Action or West Smoky Valley Alternative (Alternate designs could be implemented on either transmission line corridor).	Same as Proposed Action.

TABLE 1-1 Continued

SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS FOR ALL ALTERNATIVES¹

Proposed Action	West Smoky Alternative	No Action	Alternative Designs	Alternative Crushing/Grinding Circuit
VISUAL RESOURCES²				
Mine/mill would significantly affected. The visual contrast would exceed allowable contrast values for a VRM Class IV area. Transmission line would represent a visual intrusion in Big Smoky Valley but visual contrasts would not exceed values for VRM Class IV and V. Therefore, visual impacts associated with transmission line are insignificant.	The transmission line would exceed contrast values for VRM Class III areas. In addition, the line would adversely affect the VRM Class II area directly to the west of the corridor. The impacts would be considered significant.	Same as Proposed Action except visual impacts related to the transmission line would not occur.	Impact depends on structure and its location. All 5 alternate structures would be acceptable on proposed transmission line corridor. None of the structures would meet BLM restrictions if line were constructed on the West Smoky Valley Alternative.	Same as Proposed Action.
NOISE				
Maximum noise levels at the mine (75 dB) and during construction of transmission line (40-50 dB) would be within established noise levels and would be insignificant impacts.	Same as Proposed Action	Maximum noise levels described for the Proposed Action would be the same except that additional noise would be generated by the generators. Noise levels from generators would be approximately 60 dBA, within established noise levels. Noise levels would be insignificant impacts.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
RECREATION³				
Public facilities would receive increased usage. Demand for limited indoor facilities would exceed capacity. Public lands would experience higher levels of use. Increased population base would attract new recreational opportunities. New recreational facilities would be provided by Anaconda housing development.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action

TABLE 1-1 *Continued*SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS FOR ALL ALTERNATIVES¹

Proposed Action	West Smoky Alternative	No Action	Alternative Designs	Alternative Crushing/Grinding Circuit
LAND USE				
Project would change existing land use on 3,204 acres from open space and grazing to residential and industrial uses. The project would indirectly double the developed acreage of Tonopah. This is considered a significant adverse impact.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
MINERAL RESOURCES				
Would Remove approximately 150 million metric tons of molybdenum and copper ore and this would represent a significant impact.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
LIVESTOCK GRAZING				
Under worst-case analysis, mine/mill would result in permanent loss of 66 AUMs/year. Permanent losses of 3.2 AUMs/year would occur due to transmission line. These losses are considered insignificant.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
TRANSPORTATION ²				
An additional 1,700 vehicle trips/day would occur during the construction phase. Proposed Action would lead to a significant deterioration of service on combined U.S. 95-6 northwest of Tonopah over the entire period, temporary impacts on State Route 89 during the construction period, and on U.S. 95-6 in downtown Tonopah before 2001.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action but there would be an additional 3 vehicles/week leaving project area. These would further contribute to significant transportation impacts identified for the Proposed Action.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action

TABLE 1-1 Continued
SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS FOR ALL ALTERNATIVES¹

Proposed Action	West Smoky Alternative	No Action	Alternative Designs	Alternative Crushing/Grinding Circuit
POPULATION				
Significantly increase population by 2,195 for Nye County (25.4% over baseline) and 2,080 for Tonopah (91.2% over baseline).	Same as Proposed Action	Increase population by 2,277 for Nye County and 2,157 for Tonopah.	Same as Proposed Action	Increase population by 2,291 for Nye County and 2,171 for Tonopah
PUBLIC FINANCIAL RESOURCES				
Property tax proceeds generated by project would produce an average of \$1.7 million, annually. Increase in average annual sales tax receipts would be \$206,000. There would be a short-term adverse impact resulting from the time lag between influx of population, and the generation of new revenue to support associated increases in public expenditures needed as a result of the project.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME				
Projected-related employment would peak at approximately 1,000 employees and level to 400. At end of project, 400 employees would be unemployed leading to out-migration. The unemployment of 400 employees would lead to declines in the service sector employment and would lead to an out-migration of the labor force. Project would significantly benefit regional income. Construction payroll would exceed \$26 million. Annual payroll would exceed \$8 million.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action

TABLE 1-1 *Continued*SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS FOR ALL ALTERNATIVES¹

Proposed Action	West Smoky Alternative	No Action	Alternative Designs	Alternative Crushing/Grinding Circuit
HOUSING²				
Project would create a peak demand for 1,069 dwelling units. Estimated supplies would only provide 618 units resulting in a shortage of 451 units. Temporary shortage of housing would be a significant unavoidable adverse impact.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action, but an additional 28 units would be required, raising total dwelling unit demand to 1,097 dwelling units. Shortfall of approximately 479 units would represent a significant unavoidable adverse impact.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action, but an additional 33 units would be required, raising total dwelling unit demand to 1,012 dwelling units. Shortfall of approximately 484 units would represent an unavoidable adverse impact.
ATTITUDES AND LIFESTYLES				
Disruption of existing lifestyles and possible friction among social groups could result with increased population. Principal lifestyles would change as economy changed from tourism and agriculture to a more industrialized economy based primarily on mining.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
SCHOOLS				
Enrollment would increase by 676 students. Current physical capacity would be exceeded by over 85 percent during the 1980-81 school year. An additional 22 classrooms and teachers would be required.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action

TABLE 1-1—Continued

SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS FOR ALL ALTERNATIVES¹

Proposed Action	West Smoky Alternative	No Action	Alternative Designs	Alternative Crushing/Grinding Circuit
HEALTH SERVICES				
Nye General Hospital has adequate capacity to accommodate increased population. Additional nursing staff and additional emergency personnel would be required and trained medical personnel would be difficult to attract.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE PROTECTION				
Approximately 2 firemen and law enforcement officers would be required. However, these impacts were considered insignificant.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
WATER SUPPLY, WASTEWATER TREATMENT, AND SOLID WASTE				
Project-related growth would cause unavoidable adverse impacts to the Town of Tonopah's water supply system, wastewater treatment facilities, and solid waste disposal facility. Each of these facilities would require expansion of its capacity at some time during the project life.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM				
Some minor, short-term adverse impacts to social service programs, e.g. increased caseloads and additional resource staff requirements, would be anticipated as a result of the proposed action. The impact would be greatest during the construction period.	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action

¹Additional discussions on significance of impacts can be found in Chapter 3, Environmental Consequences, in the DEIS.

²Discussion in these areas have been modified from those presented in this table in the DEIS.

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CHAPTER 2

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 2 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) supplements Chapter 2 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with additional data on vegetation and wildlife. The vegetation data were obtained through a field survey of the mine/mill site for candidate threatened and endangered plants. Additional wildlife data were obtained from the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) in comments on the DEIS.

VEGETATION

Page 2-10 of the DEIS noted that the fish-hook cactus (*Sclerocactus polyancistrus*) and eight other candidate threatened and endangered plants could potentially occur at the mine/mill site, but that specific data on their occurrence were lacking. On May 7 and 8, 1980, a survey was completed on the mine/mill site to determine if candidate threatened or endangered plants occurred in areas to be disturbed. Two such species were discovered, excavated, and donated to regional botanical gardens. This is in agreement with standard operating procedures specified on page 1-16 of the DEIS.

The cushion coryphantha (*Coryphantha vivipara* var. *rosea*) was found in small numbers in the mine pit area on ridgelines and on quartz outcrops near the contact between the valley alluvium and the rhyolitic parent material. Most plants were mature. A total of 15 plants were excavated with a shovel and bagged in paper bags to allow the roots to dry and callus. It was estimated that approximately 80 percent of the plants present in the pit area were excavated during the survey, based on the amount of appropriate habitat examined.

One example of prickly pear (*Opuntia pulchella*) was found in the tailings pond area just south of the area where mine facilities are currently being built. The tailings pond dam area and upslope areas from the proposed dam were examined with a series of transects spaced approximately 300 feet apart. An estimated 10 miles of transects were walked in

the tailings pond area. No additional plants of *O. pulchella* were found. It was concluded that *O. pulchella* is quite rare on the project site, and that it is unlikely that further disturbance during construction would affect any significant populations of this plant.

No examples of *S. polyancistrus* were found in either the mine pit or tailings pond area.

The candidate threatened and endangered plants were donated to three regional botanical gardens with the understanding that they will be available for public view and will be used for scientific research and for propagation of additional plants. Recipients were as follows:

- University of Nevada at Reno - (via Nevada Native Plant Society). Five specimens of *C. vivipara* var. *rosea*.
- Denver Botanic Garden - Five specimens of *C. vivipara* var. *rosea*.
- State Arboretum of Utah - Five specimens of *C. vivipara* var. *rosea*. One specimen of *O. pulchella*.

WILDLIFE

On page 2-14 of the DEIS, it was noted that a sage grouse strutting ground occurs within one-half mile of the proposed transmission line route, near the north end. Discussion in Chapter 3 of the DEIS indicated there was uncertainty regarding the boundaries of the surrounding sage grouse breeding habitat and consequently there was uncertainty regarding the severity of potential impacts. On March 21, 1980, representatives of BLM, NDOW, and SPPCo inspected the site of the strutting ground. The exact location of the ground in relation to the proposed transmission line was documented, and a new sage grouse strutting ground was also located. The new ground is almost directly on the proposed route. Locations of both grounds are shown on Map 1-1.

Map 2-3 in the DEIS illustrated areas of important wildlife habitat in the project area; mule deer winter range was mapped in yellow. Unfortunately, the supporting text for the mule deer range was inadvertently dropped from the DEIS during typesetting. The following appeared on page 2-15 of the Wildlife Technical Report and should have appeared on page 2-14 of the DEIS:

- *Mule Deer Winter Range* - Mule deer are relatively common in the region, but are primarily restricted to the higher elevations. Areas on the western side of the Big Smoky Valley, mapped on Map 2-3 (DEIS), are used by mule deer during winter. The winter range extends up into the mountains and varies in extent with winter snowfall. The BLM and NDOW show records of a winter distribution of mule deer in the San Antonio Mountains. Actual herd size is unknown and use is thought to be intermittent. The BLM wildlife management plan for the area

has allotted 511 animal unit months (AUMs) for deer; this would support a herd of approximately 50 animals (Ballantyne, K. Personal Communication. BLM Wildlife Biologist. 1979; U.S.D.I. BLM. no date. Unpublished narrative and maps for the Unit Resource Analysis, Tonopah Resource Area).

In addition to this information, comments received from the NDOW added new information regarding mule deer winter range. Based on recent helicopter surveys of the east side of the Big Smoky Valley, it appears that mule deer use may be considerably greater than previously thought by NDOW and indicated in the DEIS on Map 2-3. Although specific boundaries for the winter range have not yet been updated for the western slopes of the Toquima Range, mule deer use areas lower in elevation than shown on Map 2-3 (DEIS) and their winter range may be crossed by the proposed transmission line route.

CHAPTER 3

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) modifies analyses presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), based on minor additions or clarifications to Chapter 1, Proposed Action and Alternatives; or Chapter 2, Affected Environment. Discussions in Chapter 3 of the DEIS continue to represent the findings of the Bureau of Land Management in the environmental analysis. Where no discussion is provided here for a resource area, the analyses presented in the DEIS required no change.

VEGETATION

On page 3-15 of the DEIS, a worst-case analysis concluded that significant impacts to candidate threatened and endangered species would result at the mine/mill complex. The conclusion was warranted due to uncertainties regarding the potential occurrence of the fishhook cactus (*Sclerocactus polyancistrus*) and other candidate threatened or endangered species on the mine/mill site.

Based on the survey of candidate threatened and endangered plants discussed in Chapter 2 of the FEIS, two species, cushion coryphantha (*Coryphantha vivipara* var. *rosea*) and prickly pear (*Opuntia pulchella*), have already been significantly impacted by transplanting activities. These species were removed from their native habitat and donated to regional botanical gardens because they were located in areas to be disturbed by mining activities. Conclusions regarding impacts to vegetation remain as stated in the DEIS. Although the plants were saved from destruction by mining operations, removal from their native habitat is still considered a significant adverse impact.

WILDLIFE

The discussion of impacts of the Proposed Action on wildlife given in the DEIS (pages 3-15 to 3-17) is influenced by: (1) the addition of the trailer park at the mine/mill site to the Proposed Action; (2) the additional Standard

Operating Procedures to be implemented at the mine/mill complex; (3) the additional mitigation measures for the 230 kv transmission line; and (4) the additional sage grouse and mule deer data provided in Chapter 2 of the FEIS. The overall conclusion remains the same as in the DEIS: that no significant impacts to wildlife would result from the Proposed Action.

It is assumed that the campground would require up to 50 additional acres of temporary habitat disturbance. This would not significantly increase the impacts described in the DEIS and Wildlife Technical Report. In addition, the presence of up to 773 residents at the campground would increase the potential for wildlife harassment in the vicinity of the mine/mill site. Displacement of mobile wildlife species from an unquantifiable area of land surrounding the site would be expected to occur, due to increased human presence. This would occur without the campground, due to construction activity at the mine/mill site, but would be of greater magnitude since more people would be in the vicinity. This change in level of impact is not considered to be significant because it is temporary and would not adversely affect species or habitats defined as such.

The additional Standard Operating Procedures for the mine/mill complex (Chapter 1 in FEIS) would have a beneficial effect in that they would lessen problems expected to result from wildlife harassment and indiscriminate shooting. These impacts would be expected due to increased human presence in the project area. The ban on firearms and the education program would lessen these impacts to an unquantifiable degree.

The additional mitigation measures for the 230 kv transmission line (Chapter 1 in FEIS) would also have beneficial effects in that they would lessen impacts of wildlife harassment and illegal shooting. The alternative routing to avoid the recently discovered sage grouse strutting ground (Map 1-1) would prevent significant impacts to known sage grouse breeding habitat.

The updated information on sage grouse strutting grounds clears up the uncertainty

	Rating	VRM Class III	VRM Class IV	VRM Class V
PROPOSED CORRIDOR		—	80 miles	6 miles
Contrasts				
Landforms	5			
Vegetation	6			
Structures	20			
WEST SMOKY ALTERNATIVE (West of Highway 376)		36 miles	48 miles	7 miles
Contrasts				
Landforms	8			
Vegetation	7			
Structures	24 ^a			
WEST SMOKEY ALTERNATIVE (East of Highway 376)		23 miles	55 miles	13 miles
Contrasts				
Landforms	5			
Vegetation	6			
Structures	20 ^a			
MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE CONTRAST:				
	VRM Class III - 16			
	VRM Class IV - 20			
	VRM Class V - No maximum allowable contrast			

^aExceeds BLM restrictions for one or more BLM VRM Class on the specific route.

Figure 3-1. Summary of Visual Impacts of the Alternate Aluminum Guyed Delta and 4-legged Free Standing Tangent Transmission Line Structures for all Alternate Line Locations (Specular Surfaces).

regarding impacts to sage grouse noted on page 3-16 of the DEIS. As noted above, the mitigation measure described in Chapter 1 of the FEIS prevents significant adverse impacts to known strutting grounds and surrounding breeding habitat.

Finally, the updated information on mule deer distribution influences the discussion of impacts of the proposed transmission line corridor, although no significant impacts would be expected. As discussed for the West Smoky Valley Alternative (page 3-45 in the DEIS), a small amount of habitat would be disturbed, although the loss of available forage would be very low. In addition, the construction period (October through April) coincides with the period of use of the winter range and the presence of construction crews and activity would cause avoidance of adjacent areas. No significant effects would occur, however, because construction crews

would not be present all along the affected area at any one time and the winter range extends over a much larger area on the flanks of the adjacent mountains.

VISUAL RESOURCES

The addition of a fifth option (E) to Alternative 2, Alternative Structures and Materials for Transmission Line, requires minor additions to the discussion of impacts of the alternative (pages 3-47 to 3-48 in DEIS). Option E would produce different effects on visual resources.

Figure 3-1 presents visual contrast ratings for Option E; the figure is similar to those presented in Appendix D in the DEIS. As with the other structures, impacts of Option E would depend on the location of the transmission line.

For the proposed route, contrasts created by the shiny aluminum structures would be similar to those of the proposed structures or the wood K-frame (Option A). Visual contrast ratings would meet restrictions for BLM Class IV and V Visual Resource Management areas. However, the color of the structures would strongly contrast with natural colors and would create significant impacts where the transmission line is located within 1.5 miles of a community or major roadway.

For the West Smoky Valley Alternative, assuming line location on either side of Highway 376, the shiny aluminum structures would exceed restrictions for BLM Class III areas and would thus cause significant visual impacts. In addition, as with all other structures considered, the shiny aluminum structures would interfere with views of the highly scenic (Class II) Toiyabe Mountains to the west.

RECREATION

The modification to Anaconda's Housing Plan would influence the discussion of impacts to recreation resources given on page 3-20 of the DEIS. The provision of the facilities planned by Anaconda (Chapter 1 in FEIS) would reduce the anticipated strain on public recreation facilities in Tonopah. The construction of the campground could lead to a temporary reduction in the level of demand for the recreation facilities in Tonopah. Some demand for recreation activities would be transferred to the campground, but this would tend to be satisfied on an ad hoc, unorganized basis. These changes are not considered to be significant.

LAND USE AND LAND USE CONTROLS

Impacts of the Proposed Action on Land Use were described on pages 3-20 and 3-21 of the DEIS. The discussion in the DEIS is altered by the planned campground construction in that the land to be used for the campground (approximately 50 acres) would undergo a temporary change in use. If it is land that would ultimately be used in the operation of the mine/mill, no change in impacts would result. If the location involves land which would not have otherwise been involved in the operation, the amount of land disturbed would increase by up to 50 acres. Since the Nye County Commissioners have already approved the plan, no land use compatibility impacts would occur.

TRANSPORTATION

Impacts of the Proposed Action on Transportation were discussed on pages 3-21 through 3-24 of the DEIS. Construction of the campground at the mine/mill site would influence that discussion since the construction of the campground would lead to a temporary reduction in the peak level of vehicular traffic anticipated in the DEIS for U.S. 95 and 6, northwest of Tonopah, and State Road 89, north of Tonopah. Based upon the same assumptions presented in the Socioeconomics Technical Report, only the 1980 Volume/Capacity ratios on these two routes would be affected. Assuming that the campground would reduce the number of peak-hour trips by approximately 300, the new Volume/Capacity ratios would be 1.10 and .93, respectively. Based on this analysis, the construction of the campground would significantly reduce the level of adverse impacts presented in the DEIS. In fact, State Road 89 would no longer experience a reduction in the level of service. During non-peak hours these routes could experience an unquantifiable increase in traffic due to people commuting to Tonopah for shopping, entertainment, and other purposes.

SOCIOECONOMICS

The socioeconomic impact analysis for the Proposed Action (pages 3-25 to 3-40 in DEIS) is also influenced by the plan to construct the temporary campground at the mine/mill complex. In general, the campground would tend to reduce the severity of impacts discussed in the DEIS, by providing needed housing and by temporarily dispersing population growth and the associated demands on facilities and services in Tonopah. Specific changes to socioeconomic components are noted below. Again, where no discussion is provided, the analysis presented in the DEIS required no change.

Population

The campground would not alter the total number of immigrants anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action. However, the effect of building the campground would be to increase the impact anticipated for rural Nye County while decreasing the impact on Tonopah. Assuming that people living at the campground would have the same general characteristics as were assumed to calculate the population impact originally, as many as 773 people could reside at the campground,

e.g., 302 workers, 181 spouses, and 290 children. This would reduce the project-related impact in Tonopah to 697 in 1980 and 1,553 in 1981. Tonopah's total population would therefore be 2,842 and 3,743 during the same periods. This is a worst-case analysis. More realistically, the campground is likely to attract single households and those who are married, but with no children. To the extent that this occurred, it would reduce the number of persons residing at the campground and decrease the re-distribution effect. In any case, the change would be significant, accounting for a major (although temporary) reduction in the population impact in Tonopah.

Housing

The campground would provide hookups and utilities to accommodate the housing needs of many of the construction workers and some of the indirect employment/population increases. The campground would be able to handle travel trailers, campers, and full-size mobile homes. Since these categories account for 449 and 531 of the total project-related housing demand in 1980 and 1981, respectively, the campground would significantly reduce the anticipated, worst-case shortages of 534 and 174 housing units in 1980 and 1981. Although this action does not guarantee that the actual units would be available, it does provide facilities, which heretofore were not even available locally. Also, the market for mobile homes, etc., is such that other communities, such as Las Vegas, represent potential markets which could be used to expand the local supply of housing. In other words, although there are no travel trailer dealers in Tonopah, the dealerships in Bishop, California; Reno, Las Vegas, and Carson City are accessible enough that workers can purchase units at these locations and transport them to Tonopah at minimal cost. Also, many professional construction workers would already have mobile units, needing only the hookup facilities. Thus, the construction of the campground would be a major factor in reducing the housing problems associated with the Proposed Action.

Attitudes and Lifestyles

The operation of the campground would tend to increase the polarization between various social groups, e.g., newcomers and

townspeople. At the same time, the campground may increase local acceptance of the project by decreasing some of the peak demands on infrastructure, e.g., sewer and water systems, and reducing the pressures on an already tight housing market. Other interactions between groups, such as shopping and entertainment, would continue. Overall, few changes from those discussed in the DEIS are expected.

Community Facilities and Services

Schools

The campground would not change the enrollment impact on Nye County Schools. As with Nye County, there would be insignificant, temporary and unquantified increases in the District's assessed valuation and tax revenues. The primary impact of the construction and operation of the campground could be an increase in costs, resulting from the increased rate of busing, equipment maintenance, etc. Relative to current expenditures for such items in Tonopah, this could be significant, but relative to the total budget, it would be insignificant.

Health Care Services

No changes are expected except in the area of emergency services. The campground's location at the mill site would make transportation and response time of greater concern. However, assuming that the emergency ambulance located at the site would be staffed by volunteers and would be available to respond to all needs at the site, no significant changes are expected.

Fire Protection

The same situation would occur as described above for "Health Care Services".

Law Enforcement

The Nye County Sheriff's Department and Nevada State Highway Patrol would both experience changes in patrol and response needs, with more attention focused on the mine/mill/campground site. Depending upon the number of calls received, there could be a further need for additional staff and vehicles. Any such increases in need would be temporary, adverse, and significant.

Water

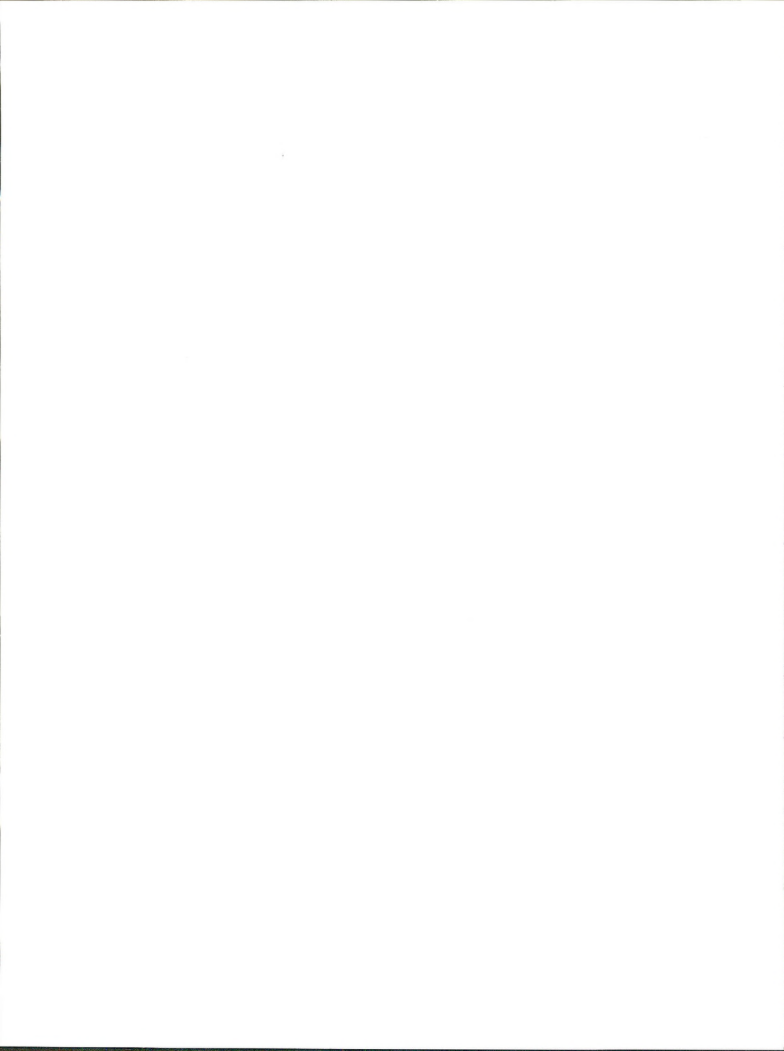
The short-term demands on the system's total capacity and distribution system would be reduced by the construction and operation of the trailer park. The costs of the temporary system would be borne by Anaconda.

Wastewater

The same situation would occur as described above for "Water".

Solid Waste

It is assumed that the operator of the campground would be responsible for solid waste disposal and that the county commissioners would act to ensure that a disposal program is undertaken which would avoid further significant, adverse impacts.



CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 5 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) updates the efforts taken during the EIS process to implement public and interagency consultation and coordination. The Chapter: (1) updates the "List of Agencies, Organizations, and Persons to Whom Copies of the Statement were Sent"; (2) publishes the public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS); and (3) provides responses to those comments.

Chapter 5 of the DEIS presented a summary of the EIS scoping process and a summary list of individuals and agencies which were contacted for information during DEIS preparation. This information did not require change in the FEIS and is not reprinted here.

LIST OF AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS TO WHOM COPIES OF THE STATEMENT WERE SENT

Copies of the DEIS, FEIS, and copies of all referenced ERT Technical Reports will be available at BLM Offices in Washington, D.C.; Reno; Battle Mountain; Carson City; Elko; Ely; Las Vegas; and Winnemucca, Nevada. Public libraries which will be sent a copy are: the Churchill Public Library, Fallon; Clark County Library, Las Vegas; the Elko County Library, Elko; the Esmeralda County Library, Goldfield; the Eureka County Library, Eureka; the Lander County Library, Battle Mountain; the Mineral County Library, Hawthorne; the Nevada State Library, Carson City; the Nye County Library, Tonopah; the Washoe County Library, Reno; and the White Pine County Library, Ely. Draft and Final EISs will also be sent to the University of Nevada Libraries in Reno and Las Vegas.

The following agencies, groups, and individuals were sent a copy of the DEIS for review and comment and will be sent copies of the FEIS.

Federal Government

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Battle Mountain District
Carson City District
Elko District
Ely District
Las Vegas District
Winnemucca District
Nevada State Office, Reno
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Stewart,
Nevada
Regional Environmental Officer, San
Francisco, California
Bureau of Mines, Reno and Carson City,
Nevada; Spokane, Washington; St. Paul,
Minnesota
Geological Survey, Carson City, Nevada;
Pocatello, Idaho
Heritage Conservation and Recreation
Service, San Francisco, California and
Washington, D.C.
Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, Nevada
Natural Resources Library, Washington,
D.C.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Toiyabe National Forest, Reno, Austin,
and Tonopah, Nevada
Soil Conservation Service, Reno and
Tonopah, Nevada

U.S. Department of Commerce, Reno,
Nevada

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration, Car-
son City, Nevada

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
San Francisco, California

U.S. Department of Energy, San Francisco,
California

U.S. Department of Defense
MX Project Field Office, Carson City,
Nevada
Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada
Norton Air Force Base, California

Federal Housing Administration, Reno,
Nevada

U.S. Senate and House of Representatives
Senator Howard W. Cannon
Senator Paul Laxalt
Representative James Santini

State of California

City of Los Angeles, Department of Water
and Power

State of Colorado

Colorado State University, Library

State of Idaho

Idaho State University, Library

State of Nevada

Governor, State of Nevada

Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources, Division of Water Resources

State Planning Coordinator

State Clearinghouse (distributes copies to
and coordinates responses from Nevada
departments, divisions, and boards)

Governor's State Multiple Use Advisory
Committee on Federal Lands

Legislative Counsel Bureau

University of Nevada
Dean, College of Agriculture
Dean, Mackay School of Mines
Bureau of Business and Economic
Research
Bureau of Mines

Local Government

State Senators
Richard Blakemore, Tonopah
Norman Glaser, Halleck

State Assemblymen
Jack Fielding, Pahrump
John Marvel, Battle Mountain

Lander County Commissioners

Lander County Planning Commission

Nye County Planning Commission

Central Nevada Resource Development
Authority

Non-economic Interest Groups

Conservation Interests

Audubon Society, Lahontan Chapter
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Nationwide Forest Planning Clear-
inghouse, Eugene, Oregon
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nevada Organization for Wildlife
Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association
Nevada Wildlife Federation
Sierra Club, Northwest Office
Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter
The Wilderness Society, Denver,
Washington, D.C.

Archaeological Interests

Am-Arcs (Amateur Archaeologists) of
Nevada
Nevada Archaeological Association

Recreational Interests

Nevada Off-Road Vehicle Association
Nye County Fish and Game Association
American Fisheries Society, Maryland

Local Interest Groups

Smoky Valley Power Committee
Yomba Shoshone Tribe, Austin, Nevada

Economic Interest Groups

Livestock

Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Woolgrowers' Association

Utilities

Houston Lighting and Power Company,
Houston, Texas
Nevada Power Company, Las Vegas,
Nevada
Sierra Pacific Power Company, Right-of-
Way Department, Reno, Nevada

Mining

Anaconda Copper Company, Nevada-
Moly Project Manager

AMAX, Inc., Golden, Colorado
Climax Molybdenum Company, Golden,
Colorado
Exxon Minerals Company, Houston,
Texas
MolyCorp, Inc., Los Angeles, California
Nevada Mining Association
Rocky Mountain Energy Company,
Denver, Colorado

Geothermal

Republic Geothermal, Inc., Santa Fe
Springs, California

Nuclear Energy

Atomic Industry Forum, Inc.,
Washington, D.C.

Oil

Atlantic Richfield Company, Los
Angeles, California
Conoco, Inc., Denver, Colorado
Tenneco Oil Exploration and
Production, Houston, Texas

Libraries

Austin Branch Library, Austin, Nevada
Battle Mountain Branch Library, Battle
Mountain, Nevada
Churchill Public Library, Fallon, Nevada
Clark County Library, Las Vegas, Nevada
Douglas County Library, Minden, Nevada
Elko County Library, Elko, Nevada
Eureka County Library, Eureka, Nevada
Goldfield Public Library, Goldfield, Nevada
Humboldt County Library, Winnemucca,
Nevada
Lander County Library, Battle Mountain,
Nevada
Las Vegas Public Library, Las Vegas,
Nevada
Lincoln County Library, Pioche, Nevada
Lyon County Library, Yerington, Nevada
Mineral County Library, Hawthorne,
Nevada
Nevada State Library, Carson City, Nevada
Nye County Library, Tonopah, Nevada
Ormsby Public Library, Carson City,
Nevada
Pahrump Public Library, Pahrump, Nevada
Pershing County Public Library, Lovelock,
Nevada
Storey County Library, Virginia City,
Nevada
University of Nevada Library, Reno,
Nevada

University of Nevada Library, Las Vegas,
Nevada
Washoe County Library, Reno, Nevada
Washoe County Law Library, Reno,
Nevada
White Pine County Library

Individuals

A list of individuals believed to be in-
terested in the proposal and alternatives
was maintained by the Division of Plan-
ning and Environmental Coordination,
BLM, Reno, Nevada. The following in-
dividuals either requested receipt of all
Nevada EISs or asked to be on the mailing
list for this EIS.

Dean Alley, National Rifle Association of
America, Gardnerville, Nevada
Anne Anderson, Reno, Nevada
James Arnold, San Juan Capistrano,
California
Richard Atwater, MX Land Oversight
Committee, Pioche, Nevada
Robert D. Bartlett, Indiana University,
Bloomington, Indiana
B. Beakes, Interdevelopment, Inc.,
Arlington, Virginia
Richard E. Blakemore, Tonopah, Nevada
Brian W. Buck, Pine Grove Associates,
Milford, Utah
Lou Bucklin, Bloomington, Indiana
Kathy Civitarese, Environmental Science &
Engineering, Inc., Gainesville, Florida
Charles H. Coleman, Redwood City,
California
Delmar Dahl, Battle Mountain, Nevada
Les Darling, Grand Coulee, Washington
Phillip B. Davis, Reno, Nevada
Andrew Eason, Tonopah, Nevada
Marvin A. Einerwold, Las Vegas, Nevada
Energy Impact Associates, Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania
Robert Erickson, Carson City, Nevada
Jack F. Fielding, Pahrump, Nevada
Mary Kay Fleming, INAX Environmental
Services, Denver, Colorado
H. Paul Frieseema, Northwestern University
Bert Gandolfo, Austin, Nevada
Patrick J. Garver, Parson, Behle and
Latimer, Salt Lake City, Utah
Dennis Ghiglieri, Reno, Nevada
Fred B. Gibson, Jr., Las Vegas, Nevada
R. J. Gillum, Tonopah, Nevada
Norman Glaser, Halleck, Nevada
Kenneth M. Goldsmith, Northford,
Connecticut
Bonnie Hainowitz, Golden, Colorado
John Hart, California

Allen W. Hathway, Haley and Aldrich, Inc.,
Cambridge, Massachusetts
J. K. Hayes, Provo, Utah
Ed Hynes, Rocky Mountain Energy Co.,
Denver, Colorado
Paul Isaacs, Tonopah, Nevada
Shirlee Ivers, Dames & Moore, Salt Lake
City, Utah
David Jackson, Humboldt State University,
Arcata, California
Wendall Jones, Dynalectron, Albuquerque,
New Mexico
Martha Jordan, Fugro Northwest, Inc.,
Seattle, Washington
Dr. Y. S. Kim, Mackay School of Mines,
Reno, Nevada
W. F. Kirk, Uncasville, Connecticut
James M. Kozakowski, Federal Resources
Corp., Salt Lake City, Utah
George Lauer, Environmental Monitoring
and Services Center, Newbury Park,
California
Gerald Laufman, San Jose, California
Leeds, Hill and Jewett, Inc.,
San Francisco, California
James S. Lindsey, Pennsylvania State
University
Dick Loper, Wyoming
Joe McDonald, Reno, Nevada
Edward McGrath, Rockville, Maryland
James P. McInerney, Nellis Air Force Base,
Nevada
Cynthia McMahon, BEAK Consultants,
Portland, Oregon
Russell B. Martin, Enviro Technics, Inc.
Roosevelt, Utah
John Marvel, Battle Mountain, Nevada
John E. Mawby, Dyer, Nevada
Amy Mazza, Reno, Nevada
Wayne T. Miller, Las Vegas, Nevada
Tina Nappe, Reno, Nevada
Eric Nordhausen, Mountain States
Engineers, Tucson, Arizona
Dan O'Donoghue, ED&W, Inc.,
San Francisco, California
Lola Peed, Tonopah, Nevada
Van Peterson, Ely, Nevada
Paul Richards, Reno, Nevada
Richard Ripley, Battle Mountain, Nevada
John Ryan, Rotan Mosle, Inc., Houston,
Texas
Rob Scanlan, Tonopah, Nevada
Hughie Schoff, Winnemucca, Nevada
Bob Schwartz, TRW, Defense & Space
Systems Group, San Bernardino, California
David A. Skidmore, Westcott &
Associates, Grand Junction, Colorado

David D. Smith and Associates, California
T. Baker Smith and Son, Inc., Los Angeles,
California
Julian C. Smith, Jr., Carson City, Nevada
Souther, Spaulding, Kinsey, Williamson,
and Schwabe, Portland, Oregon
Dr. William E. Southern, Northern Illinois
University
Rose Strickland, Reno, Nevada
William Tomlinson, University of Montana,
Missoula, Montana
Dan & Diana Toplikar, San Francisco,
California
Sammye Ugalde, Winnemucca, Nevada
Van Cott, Bagley, Cornwall & McCarthy,
Salt Lake City, Utah
Verity, Smith & Kearns, Tucson, Arizona
David H. Vomacka, Santa Barbara,
California
Joe Wargo, San Francisco, California
John Wiener, Laramie, Wyoming
Bob Wright, Jr., Wells, Nevada
Dr. J. Louis York, Stearns-Roger
Engineering Corp., Denver, Colorado
Amy Zanbrunt, Environmental Co., New
York
Ann Zorn, Las Vegas, Nevada

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings, announced in the *Federal Register* and by news release were held in Austin and Tonopah, Nevada. News releases were mailed to a "statewide" media list comprised of newspapers, radio and television stations. Some individuals and interest groups have also requested to be on the "statewide" list, thus receiving all BLM, Nevada State Office news releases. Media addresses are available through the BLM Public Affairs Office, Reno.

RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ten letters of comment were received on the DEIS. The letters and responses to them are presented below. One person gave testimony at a public hearing in Austin, Nevada. His testimony and a response are not printed here because a letter covering the same topics (letter 8) was also submitted by the same individual.

Figure 5-1 provides an index to the letters received and the general topics covered in each.

Moly Project

[illegible]

Figure 5-1.—Index to Public Comments Received on the DEIS for the Anaconda Nevada Moly Project—Continued

Subject of Comment Letter Number and correspondent	General Adequacy of DEIS	Recommended Location for Transmission Line	Interaction With MX Missile Development Program	Interaction With Program to Supply Power to Big Smoky Valley Residents	Practicality of Use of Diesel Generators as Power Source	Adequacy of Waste Disposal Plans	Revegetation Success at Mine / Mill Complex	Impacts of Tower Treatment Materials	Impacts on Air Quality	Impacts on Water Resources	Impacts on and Mitigation Measures for Wildlife	Impacts on and Mitigation Measures for Cultural Resources	Impacts on and Mitigation Measures for Visual Resources	Impacts on and Mitigation Measures for Recreation	Impacts on Mineral Resources	Impacts on Livestock Grazing
Division of Environmental Protection						X		X	X							
Division of State Parks		X					X						X	X		
Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology												X				
Department of Wildlife		X									X					
7 Charles H. Coleman, Redwood City, CA.		X											X			
8 Kingston Hydro-Power Cooperative, Inc.				X												
9 Nevada Cattlemen's Association										X						X
10 Conrad J. Kersch, Kingston Village, NV		X														

LETTER 1



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, Ca 94105

Project #D-BLM-K67001-NV

Edward P. Spang
State Director, Nevada
Bureau of Land Management
300 Booth Street
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520

Dear Mr. Spang:

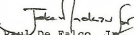
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received and reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) titled ANACONDA NEVADA MOLY PROJECT.

The EPA's comments on the DEIS have been classified as Category IO-2. Definitions of the categories are provided by the enclosure. The classification and the date of the EPA's comments will be published in the Federal Register in accordance with our responsibility to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal Actions under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Our procedure is to categorize our comments on both the environmental consequences of the proposed action and the adequacy of the environmental statement.

The EPA appreciates the opportunity to comment on this DEIS and requests three copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement when available.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Susan Sakaki, EIS Coordinator, at (415)556-7858.

Sincerely yours,


Paul De Falco, Jr.
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Hazardous Substance Comments

1. The DEIS does not indicate whether poles treated with the wood preservative pentachlorophenol will be pretreated or treated on-site. If the poles are to be treated on site, issues such as method of application, applicator safety, disposal of effluent from treatment units and protective measures to prevent possible soil and ground water contamination should be addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).
2. The plan for waste disposal of molybdenum concentrate tailings appears to be adequate at this time. In the fall of 1980, EPA will publish Part 266 of the Hazardous Waste regulations, which will include waste disposal of mine tailings. At that time, conformity to these regulations would be expected.

1.1

RESPONSE

- 1-1: The poles will be pretreated so the identified potential soil and groundwater contamination would not occur.

LETTER 2



United States Department of the Interior

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

IN REPLY REFER TO:

450 Golden Gate Avenue Box 36062

PSW 200
DES 80/19

MAY 10 1980

Memorandum

To: State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada
From: Regional Director, PSWRO
Subject: Review of Draft Environmental Statement for the Anaconda
Nevada Moly Project

We have reviewed the subject statement and offer the following comments.

General Comments

Overall, we find the document well written and a comprehensive treatment of the project proposal and impacts.

Cultural Resources

Potential adverse impacts on the Blue Jack and Liberty Mines caused by increased visitation may be mitigated by the development of an employee education program. An understanding of the historic significance of the sites may instill respect for the sites and reduce potential damage resulting from vandalism.

2-1

Recreational Resources

The predicted significant increase in demand for recreational activities, specifically organized team sports and indoor activities, may encourage the project sponsor to provide financial assistance to the local community to develop proposed facilities (Page 2-26). Provision of additional recreational facilities in the region should be considered as a mitigation measure for inclusion in the proposed project.

2-2

John H. Chung

RESPONSE

- 2-1: Anaconda has agreed to include a cultural resources education program as part of its employee orientation program. The program will inform employees of the significance of the sites and will urge employees not to disturb the integrity of these cultural resources.
- 2-2: At the time of publication of the DEIS, Anaconda had not finalized plans for providing recreational resources. Such plans are now developed and are responsive to the concerns expressed in the comment.

As noted in Chapter 1 of the FEIS, Anaconda proposes to establish areas within the various subdivisions to be used solely for recreational purposes. Within these areas, Anaconda proposes to construct the following recreational facilities in accordance with plans for which detailed construction schedules are being developed by Anaconda:

1. Swimming pool
2. Two lighted tennis courts
3. A prepared area to be used for field sports
4. A bike and jogging path

All of these facilities will be completed on or before December 31, 1981. Anaconda proposes to convey to the county certain portions of land within the proposed housing development for open space purposes to be left in their natural state and to be used and enjoyed by the general public. The only planned improvements for open space areas will be bike and jogging paths to be built by Anaconda, and completed by December 31, 1981.

In addition, Anaconda will support local sports activities, for example, men's and women's softball leagues.

Anaconda's subdivision at present is zoned partially for business and it is anticipated that other developers will build recreational facilities such as bowling alleys, theaters, or health clubs.

LETTER 3

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF MINES
2401 E STREET, NW.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20241

June 2, 1980

DES 80-19

Memorandum

To: Nevada State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Reno, Nevada
From: Director, Bureau of Mines
Subject: Draft environmental statement, Anaconda Nevada Moly Project

The draft appears well-prepared except for the following:

The statement under "Minerals" on page 3-43 is incorrect. Molybdenum and copper products are not necessarily irretrievable. For thousands of years, some copper products have been "retrieved" several times through recycling. Very little molybdenum is recycled, but it is, in an historic sense, a newcomer to industry. The "modern" alloy steels and irons of today will eventually be recycled, thereby increasing secondary "retrieval" of molybdenum.

3-1

The discussion of impacts on mineral resources on page 3-21 includes only the Anaconda Moly project and states "No other significant impacts to mineral resources would occur." Nowhere could we find in the report that the mineral potential in the two proposed corridors had been considered and possible impacts assessed. The land status of the transmission corridors should also be discussed.

3-2

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft statement.


Assistant Director
Lindsay D. Norman

RESPONSE

- 3-1: The comment is correct. The sentence should read as follows: "The molybdenum and copper extracts produced by the mill, once shipped to market, may be irretrievable. Development of appropriate recycling technology in the future may allow secondary retrieval of the resources."
- 3-2: The definition of "Anaconda Nevada Moly Project" in the EIS does include the mine/mill site and the proposed transmission line corridor. Therefore, the impacts of the proposed transmission line and alternative transmission line on mineral resources were considered in the analysis and were not considered significant.

Land status of the two corridors is shown on Map 1-1 in the DEIS.

LETTER 4



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
REGIONAL CIVIL ENGINEER - MX (AFESC)
NORTON AIR FORCE BASE, CA 92409

REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

DEV

JUN 5 1980

SUBJECT:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Anaconda, Nevada Moly Project

TO: U. S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Nevada State Office
P. O. Box 12000
Reno NV 89520

1. We have reviewed the Draft EIS for the Anaconda Nevada Moly Project and have identified several areas that may impact the proposed MX project. The Big Smokey Valley has been surveyed for the MX program and portions of the valley have been designated suitable for MX deployment. At this time, there are no plans for deployment of the MX in this area. If, however, cluster layouts should be required in the valley, conflicts with the Anaconda Project may occur.

2. Many of the impacts addressed in the DEIS for the Anaconda Nevada Moly Project will be applicable to the proposed MX Project. These impacts are currently under study and will be presented in the Draft EIS for the MX program presented to the public in July 1980.

3. At this time, we do not consider the Anaconda Nevada Moly Project to have a significant impact on the proposed MX Project. Coordination between the projects can eliminate any potential conflicts before they occur. The combined impact of the two projects will be lessened by the fact that construction of the transmission line will be completed prior to beginning construction on the MX program.

William A. Verkest
WILLIAM A. VERKEST, Lt Col, USAF
Chief, Environmental Planning Division

RESPONSE

NO RESPONSE TO LETTER 4

LETTER 5



Nevada Department Of Wildlife

JOSEPH C. GREENLEY
Director



NOBLESSE LUX
BUREAU

1100 VALLEY ROAD • P.O. BOX 10676 • RENO, NEVADA 89520 • TELEPHONE (702) 784-8214

April 15, 1980

Mr. Ed Spang
Nevada State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Room 3003 Federal Building
300 North Street
Reno, NV 89509

Dear Ed:

This letter is in regard to the routing of the proposed 230 KV power transmission line for the Amascondo Company's polydennan mill near Tonopah. Through the environmental analysis report procedures it came to our attention that the proposed route for this line would pass in close proximity to the Civeness Ranch sage grouse strutting ground, and that the power line had potential for substantial impact to the sage grouse population within the Civeness Ranch area of Big Smoky Valley.

At the request of your State Office wildlife staff, one of my staff members attended a meeting with your GIS planning team at your office on March 4. At that time, we reiterated our concern for the potential impact of this power line on the sage grouse resource and further suggested that an on-the-ground evaluation would be in order to attempt to assess the full impact potential of the proposed action. An on-the-ground evaluation was conducted on March 21 with personnel from our Department, Sierra Pacific Power Company, and your Battle Mountain District in attendance. The exact location of the Civeness Ranch strutting ground in relation to the proposed power line route was documented, and a new sage grouse strutting ground was also located. This new ground was virtually directly on the proposed route (refer to attached map).

We recognize the potential for debilitating impacts to the sage grouse resource from this power line in several aspects including destruction of nesting habitat and power poles serving as perch sites for raptorial birds. We feel that the latter is of greatest concern as such circumstances will be highly disruptive to sage grouse breeding activities and may well cause the birds to cease using these traditional strutting grounds.

Mr. Ed Spang
April 15, 1980
Page 2

display grounds. It should be noted that the Civeness Ranch strutting ground has been a very active ground with an average of about 30 males in attendance on the ground over the last ten years. Both the Civeness Ranch ground and the new ground had just over 30 male birds in attendance on the morning of inspection (3/21/80).

In light of our concerns for the welfare of the sage grouse resource in this area, we strongly recommend that the power line route be moved as far away from these grounds as is possible. Our deliberations with representatives from the environmental section of Sierra Pacific Power Company indicate that there is a possibility of moving the power line approximately 1.2 miles to the east as displayed in the approximate alignment on the attached map.

By this letter we solicit your consideration for rerouting this transmission line so as to mitigate potential impacts to this valuable sage grouse resource. We further hope that our recommendation will receive due consideration in your right-of-way permit procedure.

Sincerely,


Joseph C. Greenley
Director

Attachment

cc: Aaron Mann, Sierra Pacific Power Company
Region II Supervisor

5-1

RESPONSE

- 5-1: As stipulated in the DEIS, the survey of sage grouse strutting grounds was completed by SPPCo, BLM, and NDOW representatives. An alternative location for the proposed transmission line has been identified as a mitigation measure to avoid conflicts with sage grouse. Please refer to the discussion in Chapter 1 of the FEIS.

LETTER 6



STATE OF NEVADA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING COORDINATION
1470 E. 10th
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710
TEL. 687-4801

May 28, 1980

Mr. Edward Spang
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
305 Booth Street
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520

RE: SAI NV# 80300015 Project: Moly Mine EIS

Dear Mr. Spang:

Attached are the comments from the following affected State Agencies: Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, Conservation Districts, State Parks, Division of Environmental Protection, Department of Energy, and the Department of Wildlife concerning the above referenced project.

These comments constitute the State Clearinghouse review of this proposal. Please address these comments in the final or summary report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike Nolan".

Mike Nolan for
Robert M. Hill
State Planning Coordinator

RNH:sp
Enclosures

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE COMMENTS ON SAI NV # 80300015
MOLY MINE EIS

Nevada Dept. Energy

NDOE supports the proposed powerline for energy considerations. Electrical power from a coal fired plant is far more practical than electricity from oil powered generators. In our current situation it is highly doubtful that enough diesel fuel could be provided to run the generators; and if it was provided it would be depriving some other use.

Division of Water Resources

Construction of power transmission line would cause no significant impact on water resources in the Big Smokey Valley.

The Anaconda Company is complying with Chapters 533 and 534 of the Nevada Revised Statutes to appropriate the public waters.

Division of Conservation Districts

Impact from transmission line appears to be minimal and is adequately handled from a resource standpoint.

Impact of the mine itself will be substantial. It would be desirable to have more definite reclamation plans. Revegetation success is critical for long term reclamation.

Comments from Dept. Wildlife, Division of State Parks, Division of Historic Preservation & Archeology and Division of Environmental Protection

6-1

RESPONSE

- 6-1: The issue of revegetation success at the mine/mill site was addressed in Pages 3-6 through 3-10 of the DEIS where it was concluded that revegetation efforts could fail. The conclusion was based on a worst-case analysis which assumes that tailings material and surface layers of waste disposal areas will be poorly suited for use as a seedbed material. The worst-case analysis was used in accordance with NEPA Regulations (Section 1502.22) because the actual characteristics of these materials are currently unknown.

It should be reiterated that, as stated on Page 3-10 of the DEIS, the worst-case assumptions may not hold, and partial or complete revegetation success may be achieved. As described on Pages 1-14 and in Appendix A, Anaconda will develop a detailed revegetation plan during mining operations. The detailed plan will be based on the results of experimental revegetation trials to be carried out using actual tailings and waste disposal materials from the mining operation. The revegetation plan which will be implemented after mine/mill closure will incorporate techniques found to be most successful in the experiments, in order to best ensure revegetation success.

Thus, although Anaconda has not prepared a detailed reclamation plan at this time, such a plan will be prepared and implemented. Anaconda's policy of postponing detailed planning until the operational phase provides opportunities for incorporating new techniques which may be developed and for adapting reclamation objectives to changing regulatory climates and state and public interest. It also creates uncertainty regarding potential reclamation success. The worst-case analysis included in the DEIS alerts Anaconda and other concerned parties to several problems which will have to be solved in the final reclamation plan.

- 6-2: Visual impacts of the transmission line in the Big Smoky Valley were analyzed in the Visual Resources Technical Report and in the DEIS on Pages 3-18 (Proposed Action) and 3-45 (West Smoky Valley Alternative). Conclusions were that the severity of the visual impact depends strongly on line location.

On the west side of the valley, the transmission line would cause highly significant visual impacts because it would interfere with views of the highly scenic Toiyabe Mountains. Visual contrasts estimated for the transmission line would exceed allowable standards for existing Visual Resource Management Classes.

On the east side of the valley, the transmission line would cause significant visual impacts at road crossings and in the 22.5-mile section in which it would be within 1.5 miles of Route 376. For much of its length, the line would not be visible from Highway 376 (the location of most viewers). Alternate tower materials (western red cedar poles and cross braces) would be used in high impact areas to reduce visual contrasts. Visual contrasts estimated for the transmission line route in the Proposed Action would not exceed allowable standards for existing Visual Resource Management Classes.

- 6-3: The Ft. Churchill Alternative was raised as a potential alternative in the scoping process and an environmental reconnaissance was conducted to help determine if it should receive detailed analysis in the DEIS. The reconnaissance consisted of a review of existing resource information in the BLM Carson City District Office and an aerial overflight of the route. Existing information on the route was limited, so conclusions were based primarily on the aerial reconnaissance.

One conclusion reached after the reconnaissance was that the Ft. Churchill route would cause less visual impact than a Big Smoky Valley route because it would parallel an existing transmission line for much of its length. It was also apparent, however, that the Ft. Churchill route would present increased possibility for impact to other resources (e.g., cultural resources, soils, vegetation, wildlife), in comparison to a Big Smoky Valley route, because of its increased length (140 miles versus 86 for the proposed) and the fact that it would cross 32 miles of comparatively rugged terrain.



**DIVISION
OF
STATE
PARKS**

MEMO

TO Roland Westergard
FROM John Nader
SUBJECT HOLY MINE EIS, 80300015

801.65(2)

DATE May 20, 1980

The proposed powerline and mine will have impacts on recreation and the natural features as identified in the EIS.

The powerline routing through Big Smoky Valley will have significant and long lasting visual impacts on one of the most magnificent valleys in Nevada. We disagree with the finding on Page 1-26 that the Ft. Churchill Corridor Alternative would have increased potential for environmental impact due to increased length. The Ft. Churchill Corridor Alternative would occupy an existing 230kv transmission corridor for almost the entire length. In addition, the area traversed by the Ft. Churchill Corridor Alternative is not as pristine as Big Smoky Valley. We continue to support the Ft. Churchill Corridor Alternative over the Big Smoky Valley Alternative.

There appears to be a reluctance to make a commitment on definite reclamation once the mining operation is completed. We feel that recreational use of the area is a possibility. The Division of State Parks would be willing to meet with Anascondo during their testing of revegetation techniques to meet recreational design demands. The Division could work with Anascondo on developing an administering agency and best recreational use of the area.

On Page 3-20 an unavoidable significant adverse impact of an increase in demand for recreational resources and facilities beyond the capacity for Nye County and the town of Tonopah is identified. Since the growth inducement is directly attributable to development of the mine, the mine developer can be held responsible for mitigating the impact. Recreation facilities should particularly be provided in the proposed Anascondo new community (map 3-1).

/bg

a division of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



THE NEVADA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ARCHEOLOGY
201 South East Street - Nye Building - Room 113 - Carson City, Nevada 89703
NAD: RCD:WNA, Administrator Telephone (703) 685-1336

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ROBERT LIET
GOVERNOR

ROLAND D. WESTERGARD, Director

May 23, 1980

MEMORANDUM

TO: Office of the State Planning Coordinator
FROM: Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology
SUBJECT: Comments on Clearinghouse Project Summary SAI NV #80300015
Holy Mine

This office has received and reviewed a copy of the above mentioned project summary. The National Register of Historic Places and the Division's files have been checked. No properties listed on or pending nomination to the National Register are located in or are immediately adjacent to the area of the proposed undertaking. Those sections of the draft EIS dealing with cultural resources have been reviewed and the Division wishes to make the following observations.

1. The indirect effect of the mine/mill complex can be mitigated. Potential facets of that mitigation may be:
 - signing and interpretation
 - fencing
 - recording of architectural and engineering features through measured drawings and photographs
2. Contact should be made with the state office of the BLM to determine if the studies conducted in the mine/mill site qualify as a Class III study. The use of 60 meter intervals is, I believe, outside their maximum permissible limits. If this is the case, additional work may be required in the mine/mill complex area.

This letter does not represent formal comment on the part of the State Historic Preservation Officer according to Section 108 of the National Historic Preservation Act or its implementing regulations 36 CFR, Part 800. When a final configuration for the proposed facility and powerline corridor is decided on, this office should be contacted in order that determinations of site eligibility to the National Register and site specific project effect can be addressed.

CD:WNB

Sierra Pacific Power Company would request a minimum distance of 1,000 feet between the existing transmission line and the new line, in order to guarantee the reliability of both lines. This requirement would limit use of existing access roads for construction purposes, so land disturbances for the Ft. Churchill route would be greater than those for a Big Smoky Valley route, in proportion to the increased length. In addition, permanent access roads and larger tower pads would be required in areas of rugged terrain.

The factors mentioned above, and the differences in costs between the Ft. Churchill and Big Smoky Valley routes, were considered by BLM and a decision was made to eliminate the Ft. Churchill Alternative from detailed analysis in the EIS.

6-4: Please refer to the response to Comment 6-1.

6-5: Please refer to the response for Comment 2-2.

6-6: Mitigation of the indirect impacts of the project on the Bluejack and Liberty Mines was recognized in the DEIS. Page 6-24 of the DEIS identified potential mitigation measures to protect or discourage degradation of the areas.

It should be noted that mitigation measures suggested in the comment would be effective, but would require implementation by county or state agencies and local historical groups because the mines are located on private land not owned by Anaconda.

Anaconda has recently committed to a mitigation measure which would reduce the indirect impact. Anaconda will develop a cultural resources education program for its employees. The program will increase awareness of the value of the sites and encourage protection of their integrity. Please see Chapter 1 of the FEIS.

6-7: While the survey may not have qualified specifically as a Class III survey, the survey was coordinated with BLM archaeologists. Because the mine/mill site is located on private land, a Class III survey was not required. A potential mitigation measure was identified on Page 6-24 of the DEIS which dealt with cultural resources encountered during construction.

6-8: Consequences of the direct loss of desert shrub wildlife habitat were discussed on Page 3-16 of the DEIS and on Pages 3-5 through 3-8 of the Wildlife Technical Report. The conclusion that the permanent loss of 2,521 acres at the mine/mill and 87 acres along the transmission line route would be insignificant was based on the criteria of significance (Page 3-16 in DEIS; Page 3-1 in Wildlife Technical Report) which were developed by ERT in consultation with representatives of BLM and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The habitat losses would not significantly affect either habitats or species defined as significant. Additionally, the analysis considered the fact that the anticipated habitat losses are small in comparison to the acreage of similar habitat available in the Big Smoky Valley and in central Nevada.

It should be noted that the acreages given are based on a worst-case analysis of potential revegetation success at the mine/mill complex. As noted on Page 1-14 of the DEIS, Anaconda will develop a detailed reclamation plan for the mine/mill complex, based upon experiments to be conducted during operation. While the worst-case analysis is pessimistic about revegetation success based on information obtained to date, it is likely that the long-term habitat losses will be reduced by revegetation efforts. Please refer to the response to 6-1.

The comment regarding cumulative effects of habitat losses is correct in that, if additional similar developments were to occur in the Big Smoky Valley, significant impacts to wildlife resources would eventually occur. However, in the scoping process for the EIS, it was determined that plans for other projects proposed for the Big Smoky Valley were not sufficiently developed for inclusion in the analysis (please refer to Page 1-28 of the DEIS). The BLM is aware that increasing demands for mineral and other developments throughout Nevada will involve conflicts with present land uses, including wildlife habitat.



**Nevada
Department
Of
Wildlife**

JOSEPH C. GREWLEY
Director

100 VALLEY ROAD • P.O. BOX 10978 • RENO, NEVADA 89520 • TELEPHONE (702) 784-2111
May 31, 1980



BUREAU OF
LAND
MANAGEMENT

Mike Holan
Office of the State Planning Coordinator
Capitol Building
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Dear Mike:

The Nevada Department of Wildlife appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments on Accordance Nevada Boly Project, BIL #82300015.

Our comments are as follows:

FACTS CONSIDERATIONS

1. Major direct and secondary impacts on the State -

A direct loss of 2,521 acres of desert shrub wildlife habitat would occur at the site/well operations site and an additional 87 acres would be lost from constructing the power transmission line. This loss to habitat is seemingly small in contrast to the widespread desert shrub type but it is a significant loss and cannot be ignored. The cumulative effect of habitat losses to roads, power lines, mining operations, subdivisions, etc. will eventually be devastating to the wildlife habitat zone.

A certain amount of direct mortality to songbirds, small mammals, reptiles and upland game species will occur due to vehicle and/or equipment operations during the construction phase and to a lesser extent during operational phases.

Primary species impacted would be rabbits, batwing larks, burrowing owl, kit fox, desert sparrow, ground squirrel, sharp-shinned hawk and larks, mourning doves and chukar partridge.

A potential exists for further loss and/or voided wildlife habitat in the 150 foot right-of-way withdrawn for the 220 KV transmission line which involves 1,435 acres of habitat (1,314 acres for the west Smoky Valley alternative). If water-use circumstances prompted the need to construct a road to maintain the pole and transmission line, if this happened, increased vehicle traffic would cause differential losses to all wildlife species. The primary species affected with this situation would be sage grouse, deer and antelope.

2. Major indirect impacts on State:

The presence of vehicle travel, ground surface disturbance and people will increase stress to wildlife through alteration of daily survival activities, seasonal use and home range patterns at the site/well site and along the transmission line. Primary species involved would be non-game species and chukar.

The presence of a new power line on the east side of St. Smoky Valley will pose an additional hazard to BLM wildlife surveys (flood wing aircraft) and deer surveys (halitosis) in the area.

The completion of this well/min site will constitute 400 residents employees with their family members for an estimated total of 1,400 people. This will greatly increase wildlife losses through "bumping" and inadvertent poaching of game species and consequently demand for resident wildlife law enforcement efforts in the face of increased public demands and protection efforts.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

3. General Comments

The loss in wildlife habitat will deprive Nevada and U.S. Citizens of open space in which to enjoy the natural outdoors. Central Nevada is still one of the largest expanses of Great Basin high deserts remaining in the Continental United States. This project will not be grace in itself but will contribute to the depletion of "wild" to the cattle for this land's habitat.

4. Technical Comments

During spring deer helicopter surveys in March, 1979, a concentration of wintering sage grouse was observed halfway between Moore Creek and Barker (or Barker) Creek (approximate location: T. 11 N., R. 14 E., section 10) at about 4,500 elevations. This was not included in the B.L.M. report and based on the time of year for this observation a striking ground is likely to occur in this area. Adverse impacts in the vicinity of the powerline definitely would occur for wintering sage grouse and possibly for a migrating ground/spring complex.

In the May 1-3 Department of Wildlife Habitat" found in the Deer Hill for Accordance Nevada Boly Project, male deer distribution areas are indicated in light yellow. However, based on updated spring helicopter survey information for deer, considerably concentration of deer were noted at the 4,500-7,000 elevations or in many locations considerably below the habitat deer distribution lines and BLM distribution records will be changed in the future to document this. This may cause the impacts along the powerline anticipated for deer to be much greater than previously thought.

5. Suggested Alternatives, Remedial Actions and/or Mitigating Measures

Based on potential for additional in-woods snow and direct losses in wildlife habitat and individuals, the west Smoky Valley alternative would definitely cause a lesser amount of impacts to the wildlife resource, therefore we support this alternative.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Grewley
Director

6-8

6-9

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6-11

6-12

6-13

- 6-9: Pages 1-16 and 1-20 of the DEIS state that overland travel will be used for construction access; no roads will be built. These requirements will be written into any right-of-way permit granted by BLM, assuring that the potential road construction referred to in the comment cannot occur as a part of this agency action. Thus, a request by the applicant to construct a road sometime in the future would be a separate, new agency action and would be subject to the environmental analysis process, prior to any decision on the request.
- 6-10: These indirect impacts associated with increased population were addressed briefly on Page 3-16 of the DEIS and in more detail on Page 3-6 of the Wildlife Technical Report. Increased losses of both non-game and game species may be expected to occur due to the increased population. Additional enforcement activity may be required on the part of BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

Anaconda and Sierra Pacific Power Company have agreed to additional mitigation measures in order to reduce the potential extent of this problem. Please refer to Chapter 1 in the FEIS.

- 6-11: No additional analysis of this sighting of a sage grouse concentration is warranted because it is unlikely that a sage grouse strutting ground occurs on or near the proposed transmission line route in the area specified. The proposed transmission line route would be located about 1 mile from the location given, at approximately 5,900 feet of elevation. In addition, the transmission line route crosses the greasewood vegetation type (Map 2-2 in DEIS) in this area, which is not generally considered sage grouse strutting habitat.

It is recognized that there could be sage grouse habitat areas in the vicinity of both transmission line route alternatives in addition to those known by the Department of Wildlife. Efforts will be made to protect any new strutting grounds discovered. For comparison purposes, the proposed route would cross approximately 4 miles of sagebrush habitat, most of it at the north end where two strutting grounds are known, while the West Smoky Valley alternative would cross 22 miles of sagebrush habitat (Table 2-5 on Page 2-10 of DEIS).

Please refer to the response to Letter 5.

- 6-12: This information has been incorporated into the supplemental discussion of wildlife concerns presented in Chapters 2 and 3 of the FEIS.
- 6-13: The BLM's preferred alternative is the Proposed Action, which involves transmission line construction on the east side of the Big Smoky Valley. Please refer to Chapter 1 in the FEIS.

LETTER 7

27 May 1980

Ed Spang, Nevada State Director (M-921)
Bureau of Land Management
300 Booth St.
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520

Ref: Draft E.I.S., Anasconda Nevada Noly Project

Dear Sir:

I am the owner of Barker Crank Ranch, located on the east side of Big Smoky Valley near Mt. Jefferson in the Toiyas Range. I would like to offer a comment on the above D.E.I.S. The proposed 230 Kw. power line that it describes would have a visual effect in the area near my property, and it is this subject that I would like to discuss.

First, let me say that it would be my preference that the line be constructed on the west side of the valley, following the route of the existing smaller power line. The visual and other environmental damage in that case would be a matter of increased amount in a presently affected area rather than that of affecting an entirely new area. This doesn't seem likely to become the choice, however, so I therefore would hope to minimize the visual damage done by an east side location.

The D.E.I.S., in the last paragraph on page 3-18 appears to conclude that the power line would not be very visible from the Carvers Station vicinity and in fact, "would be seen only intermittently from Round Mountain to Route 50". I believe that whether or not this is true will strongly depend on exactly where on the east side the line is built.

It is not entirely clear just where the line would be located in the area north of Round Mountain. The map accompanying both the preliminary and final scoping documents, although drawn to a small scale, clearly showed the line in the Mt. Jefferson area following the approximate edge of the valley floor. The maps in the D.E.I.S., however, show the route lying part way up the alluvial slope, at about the 5000 ft. level. This route agrees with new survey markers I have found at several places, and is further confirmed in the D.E.I.S. by Table 2-8, sites no. 2017 and 2018. Enclosed is a photocopy of a topo chart on which I have drawn both routes, as accurately as possible under the circumstances.

I do not know whether the difference between these routes is intentional or inadvertent. But as it happens, the choice between them should have a great effect on the noticeability of the power line from across the valley. The original (scoping document) route happens to be located about where the alluvial slope meets the level valley floor. As can be seen in the enclosed snapshot taken from near Carvers Station, from the distance a natural line is formed here, due to the difference in coloration between the two surfaces. I feel sure that if the power line were here, and appeared superimposed on the existing natural line, it would result in much less visual intrusion than if it appeared to divide the slope, as it would if the D.E.I.S. route were used.

The distance from Carvers Station to the scoping document route is about 4 miles and from Darrowood Hot Springs about 5. These distances are short enough that the 80 ft. towers of the power line would definitely be seen, and the question is simply one of how to make them the least noticeable. The D.E.I.S. route, in spite of being one to one-and-a-half miles further away, would clearly not do this as well as would the lower route.

It may seem like a small point, but the fact is that this new power line will become a permanent visual feature of this beautiful valley and I feel that taking the effort now to minimize its objectionable effects for the foreseeable future is well warranted. As an example of the consequences of the failure to do this, notice in the photograph the scar from the tailings of the old Gold Hill Mill, which has been abandoned for many years.

The difference in construction costs between these routes is probably insignificant and the soil types are undoubtedly the same. Therefore, except for the fact that the preliminary surveying appears to have been done on the upper route, it should make little difference to the power company which is used. Note that the lower route follows close to an existing county road for several miles. This might eliminate the need for a service road following the line along this stretch.

In summary, I urge that the siting of this power line take into consideration the visual consequences of the specific route used in this area (as well as elsewhere) and I suggest that the original scoping document route is preferable to the one that now appears to be planned.

Sincerely,

Ch Coleman

Charles H. Coleman
623 Madison Avenue
Redwood City, Ca. 94061

Office: (415) 367-2563

RESPONSE

- 7-1: The line in the final scoping document was not the exact location, but was presented as a sketch showing the approximate location. The alignment is correct as shown in the DEIS. Legal descriptions of the alignment are found in the SPPCo permit application on file with the BLM.
- 7-2: The alignment proposed by Mr. Coleman was reviewed in the field by a BLM landscape architect. Conclusions of the field review were that the shift in location would not change the overall visual contrasts associated with the transmission line, as evaluated through the BLM Visual Resources Management System. Residents of two ranches near Mt. Jefferson would benefit from the shift in that the route would be moved approximately 2-3 miles farther away. However, this shift would move the line closer to another ranch on the west side of the proposed route, and would negatively impact these residents.

Please see response 7-3.

- 7-3: Sierra Pacific Power Company reviewed design changes and costs associated with Mr. Coleman's suggested realignment. They found that the route would be 1.5 miles longer than the proposed route; that three additional angle structures would be required; and that the shift in location would increase the cost of the transmission line by approximately \$200,000.

LETTER 8

KINGSTON HYDRO-POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.
Kingston Village
Austin, Nevada 89310
(702) 864-2483

Mr Mike Walker
Environmental Coordination Branch
Bureau of Land Management
Nevada State Office
300 Booth Street
Reno, Nevada 89520

Dear Mr Walker:

Pursuant to the request in writing for comments regarding the 'Draft'
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ANACONDA NEVADA MOLY PROJECT.

Our statement is in regard to the proposed POWER LINE CORRIDOR(only).

I have enclosed a copy of your Map 1-1 Land Status which I have marked
to show:

- 1 The north terminus(end) of the current Sierra Pacific Power Co
power line serving Big Smoky Valley(R O Ranch).
- 2 Please note the private lands lying north of the R O Ranch -- these
being small ranches(wanting electric power).
- 3 Kingston Village containing 800 lots
- 4 Gillman Springs Ranch subdivision containing 127 lots
- 5 The Northumberland mining area(very large electric loads)
- 6 Kobe Valley/Monitor Valley farm area(large agricultural pumping
electric loads)

As I testified at your meeting in Austin, May 15th 7:30PM;

This portion of Central Nevada is one of the few remaining areas in
the United States without electric power.

Our group has been attempting for fifteen years (15) to obtain power
(but without success).

The Kingston Hydro Power Cooperative was recently awarded a Certificate
of Public Conveyance by the Nevada Public Service Commission to serve
the Kingston area.

Our hydro-electric generator is at capacity and we must develop additional
power sources.

We are making an application to the Rural Electrification Administration
for a long term low interest loan(s) for construction money to:

- 1 tie into either the Austin, Nevada or the Eureka, Nevada
substation (existing 230 kv transmission line from Utah)
- 2 construct lateral distribution lines for electric power users
in Big Smoky Valley, Monitor Valley and Kobe Valley not now
having electric power.

We have been informed by the REA representative that in his opinion we
will qualify for the loan(s).

Our concern is with two(2) aspects of the Anaconda Power Corridor;

- 1 Our preliminary data indicates that our feeder or lateral lines
will have to cross several times the Anaconda very high voltage
line -- how expensive will this be. will this added expense
make our whole project not economically practicable? 8-1
- 2 In the event Sierra Pacific Power Company obtains the right of way,
from the BLM for the Anaconda Power Corridor, will we be able
to obtain our right of way for our services or would we have to
work out some arrangement with the public power company? 8-2

We expect to make our applications for right of ways within 60 days.
Perhaps it is desirable to hold back on the Anaconda requests until
both right of ways could be considered at the same time.

We hope this new progress does not prohibit the old local residents from
obtaining dependable electric power -- most everyone else already has
it.

Yours truly,


James M Kielhack
President

RESPONSE

- 8-1: According to information received from SPPCo, there are no problems or prohibitive costs associated with crossing beneath the 230 kv line supplying the Anaconda project. Crossings would have to be designed to allow 11 feet of vertical separation between lines and should be at right angles to prevent problems with induced voltage.

If the Kingston Hydro-Power Cooperative distribution lines were to run parallel to the SPPCo 230 kv line, induced voltage could occur in either line, depending on the voltage of the Kingston line, the separation distance, and the distance over which the lines are parallel. The potential for induced voltage to occur is a consideration which would need to be recognized in the design of the Kingston system, but would not significantly add to its costs.

- 8-2: If the SPPCo right-of-way is granted, no additional constraints will be placed on a right-of-way application from the Kingston Hydro-Power Cooperative, Inc. BLM will complete required environmental analysis and decisionmaking processes and base its decision on a Kingston Hydro-Power right-of-way application on the individual merits and environmental consequences associated with the Kingston proposal.
- 9-1: No field studies to determine carrying capacity were undertaken for the DEIS. Carrying capacity estimates given in the DEIS are based on the assumption that carrying capacities at specific sites are adequately represented by the average carrying capacity of the San Antonio allotment (mine/mill site) or the average carrying capacity of all allotments in the Big Smoky Valley (transmission line routes).

Carrying capacity at an individual site may vary considerably from the average. However, for the purposes of the DEIS, the average value is felt to be adequate. If it is assumed that carrying capacities are as stated in the comment, AUM losses caused by the Proposed Action and West Smoky Valley Alternative would be as follows:

	Mine/mill Site	Proposed Transmission Line	West Smoky Alternative
Assumed carrying capacity	27 acres/AUM	22 acres/AUM	22 acres/AUM
Short-term disturbance	419 acres	11 acres	11 acres
Short-term AUM reductions	15/year	0.5/year	0.5/year
Long-term disturbance	2,521 acres	87 acres	92 acres
Long-term AUM reduction	93/year	3.9/year	4.2/year

Conclusions reached in the DEIS regarding the significance of these impacts would be unchanged because AUM reductions remain very small in comparison to total available AUMs in the study area.

LETTER 9



975 First Street - Reno, Nevada 89501
(702) 784-6666

April 29, 1980

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Don Nye

PAST PRESIDENT

Clayton L. Lee

VICE PRESIDENT

Don Nye

Don Nye

Don Nye

Don Nye

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Mr. Ed Sperry, State Director
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
305 SOUTH ST.
Reno, NV 89501

Dear Mr. Sperry:

Enclosed, please find the Nevada Cattlemen's Association's comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Anasconda Copper Company's proposed Anasconda Nevada Roly Project.

Sincerely,

Paul

Paul Hecari

Executive Secretary

PJ/ls

Enclosure



NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
AFFILIATE MEMBER

Comments of Nevada Cattlemen's Association on Draft Environmental Impact Statement Anasconda Nevada Roly Project

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association supports the proposed route for the 220 kilowatt power transmission line and the planned mining operation in connection with Anasconda's Nevada Roly Project. However, we have concerns over the Draft E.I.S. section on impacts on grazing and water. Page and statements in question are listed below:

Pg. 2-30 Livestock Grazing

This section states that the carrying capacity is approximately 38 acres/A.U.M. This is an erroneous figure. A more realistic figure would be in the range of 22-27 acres/A.U.M. This is considering that the average carrying capacity in the Big Dry Valley is 22 acres/A.U.M. and the average is somewhat more productive than the Big Dry Valley. The 38 acres/A.U.M. figure evidently doesn't take into consideration all the important forage species within the area.

9-1

Pg. 3-13 Impacts on Water Resources

This section states that the southern portion of the French Flats would have its water table gradually lowered. This lowering effect could cause stock water wells in the area to become less productive or to become inoperative. Anasconda should plan to provide for further development of these water sources should they become unproductive when the water table is lowered.

9-2

Pg. 3-21 Livestock Grazing

We would agree that the loss of livestock A.U.M.'s caused by this project are minor. However, the 220 figure used for carrying capacity appear highly subject to error. Therefore, the A.U.M.'s listed in this section are fairly unreliable.

9-3

Another extremely important factor, not addressed, that will affect livestock grazing throughout the mine area and neighboring communities, is the nuisance factor caused by people. These nuisance factors are for instance: open chewing cotton road traffic which scares animals and makes them less productive; livestock support facilities, such as water troughs and storage tanks, which will be damaged; the additional people using gasoline; and recreation and theft and vandalism of equipment and possibly livestock.

9-4

The nuisance factor is an important factor that should be addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. As we mentioned, we do support the proposed action, but feel that the Draft E.I.S. should seriously consider the points we've mentioned.

RESPONSE

- 9-2: A reasonable figure for the maximum depth to which the water table could be lowered in Tonopah Flat is 50 feet below the land surface. As described on Page 3-11 of the Geology and Groundwater Technical Report, natural inflow to the Tonopah Flat groundwater system is 14,000 acre-feet per year. Each year, a portion of this quantity (6,000 acre-feet) is discharged by evapotranspiration, mostly in southern Tonopah Flat, with the remainder being discharged via subsurface outflow to Clayton Valley.

A worst-case assumption for estimating effects to southern Tonopah Flat would be that the project would not reduce outflow to Clayton Valley, and that all the water used by the project (net of approximately 4,250 acre-feet per year) would be reflected in a corresponding decrease in evapotranspiration in southern Tonopah Flat. The mechanism for this reduction would be a gradual lowering of the water table. However, lowering of the water table would not proceed beyond 50 feet ("an average water level about 50 feet below land surface would curtail virtually all evapotranspiration losses"—Rush and Schroer 1971, Page 54). Thus, a new balance would eventually be achieved whereby the reduced groundwater flow to southern Tonopah Flat of 9,750 acre-feet per year (14,000 minus 4,250) would be discharged via the unchanged outflow to Clayton Valley (8,000 acre-feet) and a reduced rate of evapotranspiration loss (1,750 acre-feet per year).

Key points are that:

1. the project would reduce but not eliminate groundwater underflow to southern Tonopah Flat;
2. even assuming worst-case conditions entailing no reduction in outflow to Clayton Valley, some evapotranspiration losses would still occur in southern Tonopah Flat, and
3. once the water table is lowered below 50 feet, evapotranspiration is virtually eliminated;
4. effects in southern Tonopah Flat would not be felt for hundreds of years and it is doubtful that existing stock water wells will still be in use at that time.

- 9-3: Please refer to response for Comment 9-1.

- 9-4: Within the immediate vicinity of the mine/mill site, the nuisance factor is not expected to be a major problem. The active areas of the mine/mill site will be fenced to prevent movement of livestock into the industrial areas and resultant problems. Persons at the mine/mill site will be primarily occupied with construction and operation of the facility.

In the area in general, increased population may indirectly result in nuisances to livestock grazing such as those mentioned in the comment. It is very difficult to predict the location or extent of any problem areas, but vandalism or harassment of animals could result in impacts which are significant to the affected rancher. If problems do occur, direct effects will be felt by the ranches and indirect effects will be felt by landowners (both BLM and private) and law enforcement authorities who will be called upon to increase enforcement activities to limit the problem.

LETTER 10

12 MAY, 1980

TO BLM (N-921):

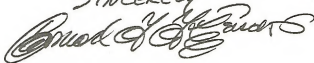
SIR —

ALL POWER LINES LEAVE PERMANENT
SCARS AND DAMAGES TO THE LAND AS
THEY TRAVERSE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. I
WOULD HAVE NO NEGATIVE COMMENTS
IF THAT POWERLINE WOULD FOLLOW
ALONG EXISTING PERMANENT ROADS AND
HIGHWAYS — THAT WAY IT COULD ALSO
BE UTILIZED IN DEVELOPING THE NEWER
POPULATED AREAS ALONG ITS ROUTE.

10-1

THANK YOU

SINCERELY

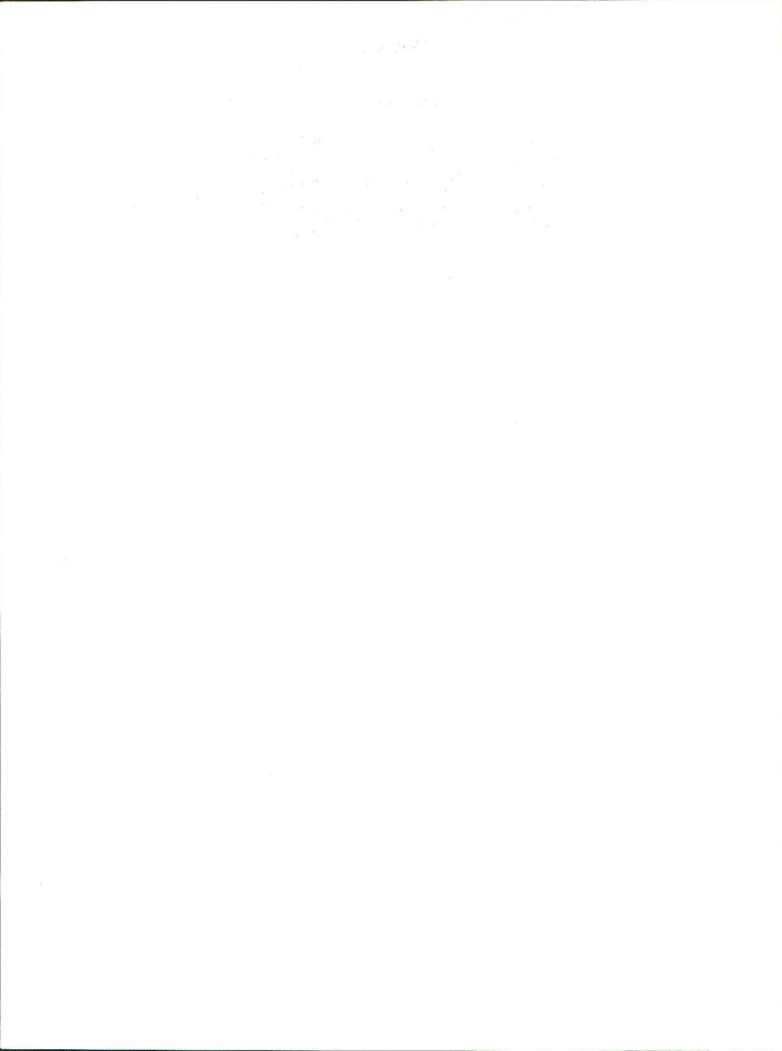


CONRAD J. KERSCH
KINGSTON VILLAGE, NEV.
- 89310 -

RESPONSE

10-1: The BLM's preferred alternative is the Proposed Action. The suggested route along the west side of the Big Smoky Valley was analyzed as the West Smoky Valley Alternative in the DEIS. This route would involve significant impacts to visual resources and cultural resources which would not occur using the route in the Proposed Action on the east side of the Big Smoky Valley.

Please refer to Chapter 1 of the FEIS.



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